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THE TIMES

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Murdoch's new offer to staff

Mr Rupert Murdoch, proprietor of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*, has said that dismissal notices issued to 210 clerical staff would be withdrawn if enough volunteers for redundancy came forward to replace them. Agreement has also been reached with several groups on more than 100 voluntary redundancies. Asked whether the newspapers would continue to publish, Mr Murdoch said: "I reserve judgment" Page 2

Exclusive

Henry Kissinger



How to deal with the Soviet Union

Was détente a failure? Did it expose the West to Soviet adventurism? Henry Kissinger, former American Secretary of State, assesses his experiences and discusses the Soviet challenge Page 10

No pay offer for nurses

Leaders of Britain's nurses, who want a 12 per cent pay rise, were "appalled" yesterday to get no firm offer when the claim was discussed at a meeting of the Whitley Council. The offer is likely to have to wait until next month.

Ski trip firm ceases trading

Erna Low, the travel company which pioneered family skiing holidays after the second world war, ceased trading yesterday and went into voluntary liquidation after the Civil Aviation Authority refused it an operating licence. The CAA said it was "no longer satisfied as the company's financial arrangements"

Concern over terror school

Mrs Thatcher said yesterday she was very concerned at events at St Saviour's primary school, Toxteth, where pupils terrorized and vandalized the school. The school's headmaster is seeking early retirement, and teachers' leaders said many many local teachers were cracking under the strain Page 2

NatWest reports record profit

National Westminster Bank reported record profits of £494m for 1981, only days after Lloyds Bank also returned a record. NatWest's profits rose £84m over the previous year Page 19

Inquiry call over Amersham

Mr Merlyn Rees, the Labour Party's energy spokesman, has asked the Commons Public investigate the sale by the Government of shares in Amersham International.

Bombs explode

Two car bombs have killed 12 people in a crowded Beirut street market. The first explosion destroyed half a dozen stalls. Blood lay splashed on the pavement for hours. Page 7

England win 4-0

England beat Northern Ireland, the champions, 4—0 in the first of the home international matches. Keegan, Robson, Wilkins and Hoddle scored the goals at Wembley Page 23

Warning from Mrs Thatcher

Budget hopes dampened by oil price decline

By Julian Haviland and Philip Webster

Expectations of tax reductions in next month's Budget were being raised too high, the Prime Minister said last night. She said that the recent reduction in the price of oil, by cutting revenue, diminished the Chancellor of the Exchequer's limited room for manoeuvre.

Speaking at the annual dinner in London of the Engineering Employers' Federation, Mrs Margaret Thatcher said that the Government's purpose was to tend and nurture the first fruits of recovery: but that would not be achieved by a lurch into irresponsibility.

"For our part we will resist the calls for easy options", she said. "Ulysses, you will remember, resisted the siren voices and came safely home to harbour."

The Prime Minister said that every day she read of proposals to reduce this tax or that. Together they added up to a formidable total. But the Government had announced and Parliament had debated, next year's spending; and the purpose of the Budget was to raise the revenue.

The reduction in the price of oil, which was still continuing, would lower costs and was particularly welcome to industry. But the fact that this reduced the revenue from North Sea oil was a factor which could not be ignored, for the Chancellor had to make the sums add up.

On his ability to do so rested confidence in the currency.

Mrs Thatcher told her audience that there was some good news. The increase last year of 7 per cent in manufacturing productivity was unprecedented during a recession, and the rise in the unit cost of labour in British manufacturing had been transformed from one of the fastest in the world to one of the most modest.

"We are becoming much less strike-prone with one or two notable exceptions in the public sector. In 1981 industrial stoppages were the lowest for four decades. We are becoming much more aggressive in selling overseas, in 1981 our current account surplus will almost certainly be the highest on record, and our exports have performed well."

Finally, and most important, we have much lower expectations about inflation. People were beginning to understand that the Government was going to get it down well into single figures, and it must keep it there. The Wholesale Price Index in January rose by the smallest amount for nine years.

Mrs Thatcher said that the other side of the coin was that the unemployment previously hidden in industry, now swelled the unemployment register. "Tragically for those involved, the recovery of employment lags some way behind the recovery of output.

"But we are now well placed to take advantage of an expansion in world trade.

"We have within our reach a new and lasting prosperity; more stable prices; a long overdue recovery in profits and investment; a revival of enterprise, followed by the new jobs we all so much want to see."

She said that one of the government's main achievements was that management had regained its proper authority and responsibility.

"We have created the conditions within which management can manage. That is why we acted to cut away the controls on wages and prices, to reduce the top rates of tax and to remove exchange controls so that British firms could take their proper place in a world of multi-national investments."

She said that the engineering industry had shown how, throughout the private sector, the fatal obsession with keeping up with the pay of the Joneses was making way for recognition of the need to catch up with the performance of the Siemens and the Mitsubishis.

There was no substitute for the spur of competition if Britain's performance was to be improved.

Mrs Thatcher reiterated her belief that new jobs would be provided with the introduction of new technology and more effective working habits. The age of the computer had been greeted with apprehension but enabled people to do things which would have been impossible before the technology was developed.

"So I believe it will be with the microchip. Each new technology carries the potential of more jobs and wider markets."

Unemployment caused by restrictive practices and overmanning leading to the loss of whole factories, and even whole industries, could not be blamed on governments. It was due to attitudes in industry and it was far easier to destroy jobs than to create them.

Jobless total down by 25,000 this month

By David Blake, Economics Editor

February unemployment figures brought good news for the Government yesterday, with a drop of 25,743 on the January total to 3,044,878, 12.6 percent of the workforce.

The underlying level of adult unemployment, which is a better economic indicator, showed a rise of 7,100, but this was the smallest increase since November 1979.

Officials in Government estimate that the underlying trend in unemployment, while still upwards, is showing less of an increase than a few months ago.

The latest figures fit in with the pattern built up in recent years of a sharp increase in January unemployment being followed by good February figures.

The improvement in the overall total was largely caused by a drop in the number of school leavers out of work, down from 150,000 in January to 134,000 in February. The traditional seasonal improvement at this time of year also played a part.

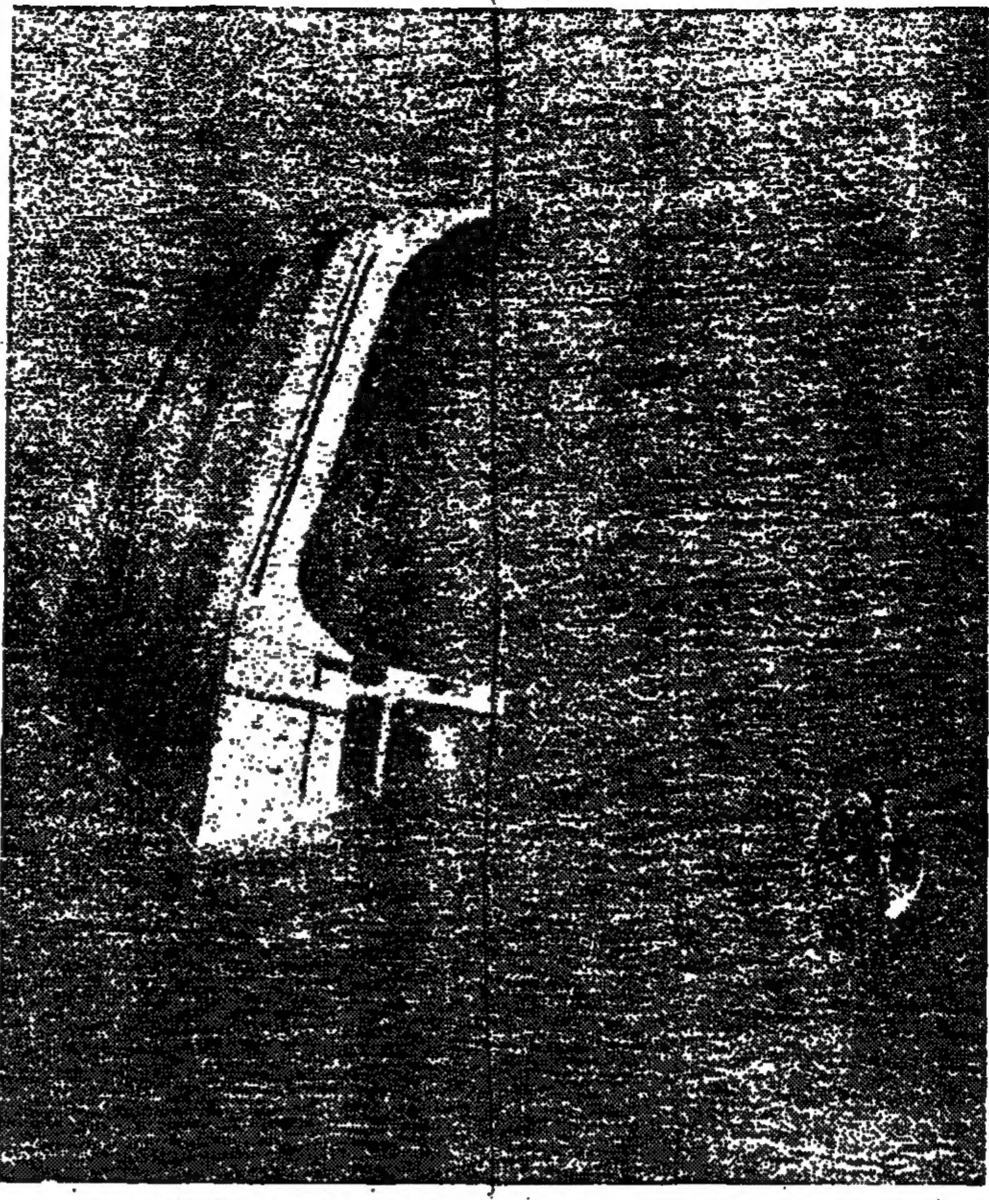
Adult unemployment, after allowing for seasonal factors, rose slightly to 2,836,000 or 11.7 per cent of the work-force. Just over two million adult men and rather more than three quarters of a million women are registered as without work. The Government estimates that the underlying figure is probably growing at about 35,000 a month, down slightly from the 40,000 a month recorded in the autumn.

Although these figures bring some comfort to the Government, the estimate of vacant jobs in February rams home the fact that no big improvement is in sight. After allowing for seasonal factors there was a small fall in vacancies to 113,500 in February. This is the first fall in vacancies since September last year.

Unemployment is spreading slowly over the whole country, moving out of the traditional industrial heartlands into the South-east and London. There were small drops in the North and North-west, but a big rise in the South-east.

Northern Ireland, with 18.1 per cent unemployment (22.3

Continued on back page, col 1



The St Bedan on her side after the engine room bombing.

IRA blows up cargo ship and threatens more attacks

From Richard Ford, Moville, Co Donegal

Rocket attacks will be made against British shipping entering Northern Ireland waters, the IRA warned yesterday after an armed gang sank a 1,250-ton coal ship in Lough Foyle by placing bombs in her engine room.

The masked Provisional IRA team bluffed its way on to the St Bedan, loaded with 1,625 tons of coal from Northumberland, by hijacking a customs cutter from Moville, co Donegal.

The men, wearing balaclavas and armed with sub-machine guns and rifles told Mr Roderick Black, the captain, to stop engines and anchor a mile from the Donegal coast. Five bags of explosives were taken aboard; and before the ten-man crew was ordered into a life-raft the IRA took photographs of the men.

One seaman said: "The guard with a sub-machine gun was very talkative. They were all in a high state of excitement. They took photographs for American propaganda sheets and they said: 'For this photograph we want you to shout, Up the Provos.'

"None of us said anything but we all burst out laughing. They got a picture of us all laughing our heads off."

The IRA men then ordered the crew on to a raft and said they would tow them ashore. But after 10 minutes the raft was cut adrift and left floating out to sea on a strong tide.

Within another half an hour the pilots from the pilot station had managed to free themselves and rescued the crewmen on the raft, just as the explosives on the St Bedan detonated. The vessel sank and ended on her side in about 40 feet of water.

The ship, owned by J and A Gardner, a Glasgow shipping company, is estimated to be worth £1m. Salvage experts said it was too early to say whether she could be saved.

Describing the attack, Mr Black said: "We were sailing up the lough when the pilot boat came alongside and a man came on board. This was normal procedure, but the next thing I knew the man had pulled a gun and put it to my head.

"About six masked men came on board. At least one was armed with a machine-gun and I saw another with an automatic rifle."

He said the leader of the gang gave a warning that British shipping coming to any port in Northern Ireland would be in danger of having rockets fired at them.

The bombing was a carbon copy of an attack a year ago on another coal ship, the Nellie M in Lough Foyle, an expanse of water separating the north-west coast of Ulster with the north-east coast of Donegal.

Mr John Nelson, assistant national secretary of the seamen's union, called for tighter security to stop more bombings of British ships. "We would ask ship owners to consider not allowing ships to go into this area during darkness. It is too dangerous", he said. "It is tragic that the terrorists were able to carry out a carbon copy of the attack a year ago."

A spokesman for J. and A. Gardner said the Government should look at security at their pilot stations and he hoped there could be discussions between shipping owners and the Irish Government. No one had been hurt so far, but if it went on someone would be hurt.

In Londonderry, there was alarm that a repetition of a terrorist attack could harm trade. "This bombing could have far reaching consequences and any loss of trade at the port would mean loss of jobs throughout the area", said a spokesman for the ship's agents.

☐ The Royal Navy is to step up patrols off the coast of Northern Ireland following the IRA attack, according to Whitehall sources (the Press Association reports).

At present, the Navy maintains patrols by two fleet tenders manned by Navy personnel, mainly aimed at catching gun-runners. These are the 143 ton Albert and Vigilant, formerly called Loyal Governor and Loyal Factor. Their names were changed because of the similarity to Loyalist, felt to be politically insensitive.

One of the options available to the security forces is to station Royal Marines with high speed "rigid raider" assault craft at spots along the coast likely to be bases for terrorist attack. It is thought that RAF helicopter flights will also be stepped up.

☐ Police in the Irish Republic were questioning three men about the bombing. They were arrested in Co Donegal.



St. Bedan's captain, Roderick Black: "A gun at my head".

Uganda fighting leaves 69 dead

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi, Feb 23

At least 69 people were killed today in fierce fighting between troops and guerrillas trying to overthrow the Government of President Obote, Uganda radio said.

Mr Paulo Muwanga, the Ugandan Vice-President and Defence Minister, tonight denied reports that he had narrowly escaped death when his convoy came under guerrilla fire on the Kampala-Entebbe road. Suggestions that he had been ambushed and four of his armed escorts killed in an exchange of fire with rebels were completely untrue, he said.

A fierce attack by anti-Government guerrillas on the Malire Army barracks in Kampala early today was a desperate attempt to capture the barracks and overthrow the Government, a Ugandan Defence Ministry spokesman said tonight.

During the attack, which began at 2 am and continued until mid-morning, hundreds of artillery shells, rockets and mortar bombs were fired—some from mortars placed on the steps of the Roman Catholic cathedral on Rubaga Hill, less than a mile from the barracks, according to the government statement.

The Defence Ministry says at least 69 of the attackers were killed, and another 10 were wounded and captured.

By contrast, the Uganda Freedom Movement (UFM), one of the underground groups which want to oust President Obote, claims that its forces overran the barracks and captured large quantities of arms —"too many for our men to carry away", according to a spokesman.

Kampala residents were kept up all night by the sound of heavy artillery, rocket and small arms fire. It was described as the heaviest gunfire heard in Kampala since Tanzanian forces ousted former President Idi Amin in 1979.

The firing was concentrated in the south of the city, mainly around the Malire barracks, housed in the former palace of the Kabakas (Kings) of Buganda, and around the Uganda Army headquarters, half a mile away.

Uganda radio said the attack was launched in the Katwe, Mengo, Najanankumbi, Kibuye and Kabowa areas.

The main road from Kampala to Entebbe Airport, which passes close to the barracks, was closed to traffic by troops.

The firing died down by mid-morning, but sporadic gunfire could be heard in central Kampala throughout the day.

A government statement assured Ugandans at midday that the situation was now quiet after terrorists had been overpowered.

The statement said the terrorists had tried to take advantage of the relaxed situation in Kampala, because they had lost the support of people in the rural areas. It described the attack as a desperate one, which had been easily overpowered.

However, a spokesman for the UFM claimed that they had shelled the Malire barracks from a distance of about three miles, with 61 and 81 mm mortars. "This was new equipment which we had just moved in—it was a good test," the spokesman said.

He claimed that the guerrillas caused about 300 casualties in the barracks, and denied claims that they had been repulsed.

"We were not repulsed. We are still in strategic positions around Kampala", the spokesman said.

Law of the gun, page 7

Balloon goes up in 'free' Wales

From Tim Jones, Mold

Planners in the Pentagon and the Kremlin may not yet tremble, but Wales yesterday declared itself a nuclear-free country.

A thousand helium-filled balloons carried the message over the border to England and an Olympic-style torch of peace was lit. From Queensferry in the north to the Severn Bridge in the south, signs along Offa's Dyke stated that Wales has renounced the siting of any nuclear weapons within its borders.

The declaration came after Clwyd became the eighth and last county council in the Principality to decide that it would be a nuclear-free zone. Every county authority in Wales is now pledged to oppose any attempt to have nuclear bombs or missiles stockpiled or constructed in the areas they administer.

The Clwyd decision was the culmination of a remarkable campaign which has been waged by groups under the umbrella of the Welsh Anti-Nuclear Alliance.

In mid-Wales geologists searching for sites to dump nuclear waste were harassed unremittingly until they had to concede defeat. In mid-Glamorgan, the county council was forced to reconsider plans for a nuclear defence command shelter.

For more than a year every county councillor in Wales has been lobbied and, starting with Dyfed, the councils have fallen into line. Retired colonels and captains pleading the need for defence have been knocked down like so many targets on a firing range.

A message was sent by telex to the Prince of Wales, sunbathing on his Caribbean holiday island. (He may muse that a limited nuclear strike against Fleet Street might not be a bad thing). It said: "In accordance with the ancient Welsh custom prescribed by Geraldus Cambriensis of the gwerin (ordinary people) speaking confidently to their Prince, we think you might wish to hear from us that today all the county councils of Wales have declared their counties nuclear-free zones, making Wales the first country in Europe to declare itself nuclear-free".



A document called the Clwyd Declaration, crafted on vellum, will be sent to Presidents Brezhnev and Reagan and every European leader, asking them to follow the example that Wales has set.

Celebrations yesterday were muted by sombre speeches depicting a nuclear holocaust. Mr Gwynfor Evans, former president of Plaid Cymru, said a nuclear war was now probable, with scores of millions of innocents killed. "Could anything", he asked "be more satanic?"

Perfume fraud trickster jailed for five years

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

An international con-man, wanted across Europe, and described as a "guiding light" in a conspiracy to defraud £271,000 from a fringe bank, was jailed for five years at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

Judge McKinnon, QC, was told that Mr Georg Pratten, aged 64, of Virginia Water, Surrey, was wanted for extradition to Italy and had twice been convicted abroad. The court was told his real name was Siegmund Sperber and he had been brought up in Antwerp.

Mr Pratten was convicted for his part in the defrauding of the National Union Bank which unwittingly advanced money to a perfume company on the basis of false invoices. Mr Maurice Thomas Wood, aged 58, of Wellington Court, Westminster, was sentenced to one year for his part in the conspiracy.

Mr Pratten, described as a diamond cleaner, was convicted by a jury on Monday at the end of a 13-week trial involving thousands of exhibits and costing at least £250,000.

In the course of the trial Detective Sergeant John Mullally, of Scotland Yard's fraud squad, gave evidence for 14 days on a case which took several years to investigate.

Yesterday the court was told that Mr Pratten was convicted in Belgium in 1959 and in France in 1969. During the last war he was taken prisoner by the Germans, in 1940, together with the rest of his family. Five of his sisters were killed but he escaped with his parents.

In his defence it was said that a sentence passed in France had been later dealt with in Austria and he had been acquitted, but the court was told there was no mention of this on his Interpol file, which carried the note "identity uncertain".

Claudio Mondino, a club owner, of The Green, Upton, Norfolk, was found not guilty of conspiracy to defraud the bank, and discharged. George Scott, aged 53, and his son Ian, aged 30, of De Rauch House, Nine Mile Ride, Finchampstead, Berkshire, were found guilty and are to be sentenced today.

Big cheque-book fraud revealed

What did not come out at the perfume trial of Siegmund Sperber was that he was the mastermind of an international "cross firing" cheque swindle. Hunted by police across Europe, he took refuge in Surrey's stockbroker belt. . . . Stewart Tendler tells the story for the first time, page five.

Russians tell of horror and heroism in Afghanistan

From Michael Binyon, Moscow, Feb 23

The Russians were given a remarkable glimpse today of the ferocity and cruelty of the fighting in Afghanistan, where last month alone, according to the Soviet Ministry of Defence, 2,223 anti-Government insurgents were killed, 1,117 captured and more than 2,000 assorted weapons seized.

An unusually frank account of the life of the Soviet conscript—lonely, cold, and under attack in the snow-covered mountains of Afghanistan—admitted that at times things were very, very tough for the Russians.

The Army newspaper *Red Star* said today that thousands upon thousands of rebels, armed and equipped with foreign weapons, poured across the border day after day into Afghanistan.

Their tactics were savage: schools, hospitals and the houses of government supporters were blown up. In one attack in the last few days, a mother of four had been tied up, dragged out of her house by a rope and hacked to death in the street. In another, hostages had been seized, tortured, skinned alive and then shot. In the Faizabad region rebels had captured the wife and 13-year-old daughter of a government security officer and "brutally shot them".

Red Star said the Kabul Army and self-defence detachments were hitting back mercilessly, however, and implied that Soviet forces took part also in last month's large-scale operations, quoting them saying they would not leave the Afghan people in misery.

The report said Russian morale was high. Not one soldier to whom the correspondent spoke complained of hardship, and all were in fighting spirit. One man who had been in the country only three months had proved himself an excellent commander and outstanding social worker: a term the press here uses to describe the aid Soviet forces are said to give Afghan peasants.

Red Star portrayed the Soviet soldiers as patriots selflessly serving in difficult conditions far from home because they were true internationalists: "It is not because we don't have enough cares at home, nor because we are seeking some kind of victory at the expense of others. It's simply that we were born thus, the sons of the October Revolution, of Lenin and of the party."

In an obvious attempt to link the Soviet presence in Afghanistan with more widely acclaimed instances of Soviet military activity abroad, the paper compared the young men to their fathers who had died or been awarded medals liberating Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia and Poland.

The paper described the soldiers eating unexpected and welcome bowls of porridge, and discussing their sacred brotherly duty in Afghanistan and reminiscing about their home towns, far from the country but close in spirit.

One major had even contrived to write a poem about his country's glorious role in defending Afghanistan against its enemies. *Red Star* reproduced the heroic doggerel, which recalled the man's father's death during the Spanish civil war, and ended declaring: "For a Russian it is the custom to help: I shall help you, o Afghan".

The paper's correspondent was clearly aware that this interpretation of the Soviet role was not fully accepted by the rest of the world, as he added: "Our coming to our neighbour's—at his urgent request—is not aggression or intervention, as ill-intentioned slanderers try to prove. The only task before the Soviet military contingent is to help Afghanistan repel the threat from outside."

In a final declaration he addressed the Soviet forces, saying: "You know, friends, that you live in every Soviet heart. People are proud of you, love you, remember you. The victory you have achieved is a victory of our Army, of our country, of brotherhood and nobleness, a victory of internationalism."

☐ **Delhi**: Western diplomatic sources here today claimed that Lieutenant-General P. I. Shkidchenko of the Soviet Army died last month in a rocket attack on his helicopter in eastern Afghanistan (AFP reports)

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Bistro ban on young jobless

The leader of a city council is asking a restaurant to apologize to nine unemployed teenagers who were turned away without explanation when they tried to get a meal.

The group from Sheffield was barred from Thomas's bistro, in York, while on a council-sponsored outing. Mr David Blunkett, leader of Sheffield council, said: "We arrange stimulating and interesting activities and the visit to York was one such trip.

"The kids were a mixture of black and white and from working-class areas. They were hungry and wanted a meal but were flatly refused entry. It is not as though they were already in the restaurant or were causing a nuisance, they were not even allowed in."

A spokesman for the owners of the bistro, John Smith Brewery in Tadcaster, said the manager thought the party was under age. Even if the youngsters only wanted to eat, the manager had the right to exclude whom he liked, he said.

Solicitor killed woman he loved

A prosecuting solicitor for the West Yorkshire police drank himself to death after an argument during which he killed the woman he wished to marry, with a carving knife, an inquest at Windsor, Berkshire, was told yesterday.

Mr Robert Wilson, the coroner, recorded that Miss Judith Goldthorpe, aged 33, a British Airways hostess, who lived in Sunninghill, Berkshire, was unlawfully killed and that Mr David Marshall, aged 33, of Stocksbridge, Sheffield, took his own life. The inquest was told Miss Goldthorpe was pregnant when she died.

Accused man took own life

Mr Kenneth Crossley, whose body was found in his exhaust-filled car at Badbury Rings, in Dorset, last Wednesday, had been due to appear at Maidstone Crown Court later that day charged with demanding £350,000 with menaces from Safeways Foodstores.

An inquest at Poole, Dorset, yesterday at which the coroner recorded a verdict that Mr Crossley, aged 56, of Julien's Road, Wimborne, took his own life in a bout of severe depression, was told that Safeways received a blackmail demand after they were told that jars of paraquat weedkiller had been placed on their shelves.

'No panic' for wave power

Scientists working to produce electricity from wave power want to continue their experiments in tanks rather than be rushed into full-scale tests at sea.

In a memorandum to the Select Committee on Energy, which met in Edinburgh yesterday, they said there was now an over-capacity of electricity production and renewable energy schemes did not have to be developed "in a panic".

BA strike spreads

The strike by 2,000 British Airways ramp workers at Heathrow airport, London, spread to Edinburgh airport last night, when workers walked out in support. The British Airport Authority said other BA workers had stepped in to do their jobs, and there were no delays or cancellations.

£200m defence contracts axed since 1974

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

The Ministry of Defence has cancelled contracts worth 200m since 1974, it has been disclosed in a Whitehall note sent to the Commons Select Committee on Defence.

The note states that "from ministry records readily available" cancellation compensation paid out on 17 big defence contracts valued at about £40m amounted to £30m.

It adds: "There are, in addition, 12 major contracts with a total estimated value of some £160m which have been terminated but where settlements are still being negotiated, and its not, therefore, possible to say what the total cancellation cost will be".

A ministry spokesman said last night that publicity had been given to only three of the cancelled 29 projects; the MBT 80, a battle tank, in 1980; the Skyflash Missile Mark Two, in 1981, and the Hawkswing, a wire-guided anti-tank missile for use from helicopters, in 1975.

When pressed for further details of cancellations, the department produced three further projects: GWS 25, the heavyweight Sea Wolf radar; the GWS 20, the Sea Dart radar; and Stir radar, a naval system. Those three cancellations were undated.

It was suggested that there might be grounds of commercial confidentiality for not naming the projects, but it was agreed later that further projects might be identified if security clearance was available.

The ministry note to the select committee shows that all defence contracts, except those worth less than £50,000 or of less than nine months' duration, include a condition that gives the ministry "the right to bring the whole contract to a premature end", for example, when a project is cancelled because of a change in requirements.

This condition "specifies the period of notice and states the general terms for settlement of any claim arising from the termination".

Terms include ministry purchase of unused material which the contractor does not want to keep, payments made to subcontractors, severance payments for workers who are made redundant as a result of termination of the contract, tooling and other overhead costs directly attributable to the contract.

The fact that the figures available show a compensation rate of 75 per cent, and that there are cancelled contracts worth £160m on which compensation has still not been negotiated, could bring compensation up to £150m.

□ Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Defence, yesterday rounded ruthlessly on his critics in the Labour Party who fear that the high cost of the Trident nuclear missile programme will involve a dangerous rundown of conventional forces (Our Parliamentary Correspondent writes).

In a stout defence of Trident, Mr Nott told the Commons that it would cost less than any major defence capability that Britain had ever had, both in capital and in running terms. Up to now the programme had hardly cost anything and the peak expenditure, if the Government decided to go for the more expensive and bigger Trident D5, would be in the later 1980s.

That would be when the Tornado aircraft programme, now costing £11,250m had run down.

Mr John Silkin, Labour's defence spokesman, told Mr Nott that the Government's nuclear policy was destroying the country's conventional capability. But Mr Nott told the House that, assuming the Government decided in favour of the larger Trident, there would still be a substantial real increase in spending on conventional forces.

□ The Royal Navy is ordering a new frigate under British Shipbuilders' cut-price offer, Mr Nott announced yesterday.

The frigate is the eighth in the £120m Type-22 Broadsword class, which the Navy is supposed to be abandoning in favour of the Type-23. But British Shipbuilders, anxious to keep their workforce in business, offered to take £6m off the total cost of a seventh and eighth Type-22 if the Navy would order them. The seventh has already been ordered and now the ministry has added number eight.

'NO MENTION OF CASH TO CHARITY'

J. P. R. Williams, Wales's most capped rugby player, told a High Court libel jury yesterday that he regretted his handling of the "shamateurism" affair which once threatened his career.

Under cross-examination by defence counsel in his libel action against *The Daily Telegraph*, Mr Williams said he did not make it clear from the beginning of the affair that money from his best-selling autobiography would go to charity.

Mr Williams, aged 32, of Llansannor, South Glamorgan, is claiming damages against the newspaper, Mr William Deedes, its editor, and Mr John Reason, its former rugby correspondent, over articles in February and March, 1979, which alleged that he had infringed his amateur status by accepting money for the book. Libel is denied.

Mr Richard Hartley, QC, for Mr Williams, had told Mr Justice Russell and the jury that the allegations could have driven the full back and former Welsh captain out of the game; but he was cleared by a Welsh Rugby Union investigation.

The hearing continues today.

HAUGHEY FACES REVOLT

From Our Correspondent
Dublin

Plans to supplant Mr Charles Haughey as leader of Fianna Fail, the Irish opposition party, are to surface at a meeting of the parliamentary party tomorrow. Dissatisfied party members are expected to meet in Dublin tonight.

A large number of Deputies, probably a majority, believe that the poor showing of the party in last week's general election was a result of popular disenchantment with Mr Haughey.

In opinion polls on the day leading up to polling Mr Haughey trailed in popularity by 20 percentage points behind Dr Garret FitzGerald, the Fine Gael leader, despite an overall Fianna Fail lead.

The dissident group within the party is promoting Mr Des O'Malley, a Limerick deputy and a former Minister for Trade and Industry. Another politician cited as a possible candidate is Dr Martin O'Donoghue, who is seen as a compromise. He is the finance spokesman.

Murdoch makes new offer to staff over redundancies

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Correspondent

Mr Rupert Murdoch, proprietor of *The Times* and *The Sunday imes*, last night promised that dismissal notices issued yesterday to 210 clerical staff would be withdrawn if enough volunteers for redundancy came forward to replace them.

In a move designed to appeal directly to clerical employees over the heads of local union officials, the management of imes Newspapers Ltd temporarilp reopened, for clerical departments, the voluntary redundancy offer which lapsed last Thursday.

Mr Murdoch also announced last night that agreements covering voluntary redundancies of more than a hundred employees had been concluded with chapels in several unions.

The 210 clerical employees, all members of the National Society of Operative Printers, Graphical and Media Personnel, are due to receive their notices by post this morning in accordance with the decision made by the management on Monday after the breakdown of talks aimed at reaching agreement on voluntary cuts of 600 full-time jobs and 900 shifts a week.

Announcing that the voluntary scheme was being restored for a "short period," Mr Murdoch made clear that the mandatory notices remained in force but added: "If the necessary volunteers come forward to replace the people to whom we are giving notice, these notices will be withdrawn and the people concerned will be replaced by volunteers".

A notice distributed at offices of both newspapers stated: "It was not and is not our wish that people who wished to go have to stay and that others must go who wanted nothing more than to do a good job here and he suitably rewarded".

The notice, copies of which were signed by Mr Gerald Long, TNL Managing Director, said that the management remained ready to discuss compensation terms for a voluntary scheme

The notice also said, in a passage strongly contested last night by local Natsopa chapel officers, that many clearical employees had been "actively discouraged" from applying for voluntary redundancy.

'Frustrated at every turn'

The notice went on to say that it "is false to say that anyone who applies for redundancy risks losing their union membership". That point was taken up yesterday by Mr Murdoch, who said that the union nationally, as distinct from chapels 'has made it very clear that nobody who goes out in this scheme will not have their union card cancelled".

The Natsopa rule 44, which is sometimes waived in the case of large-scale redundancies, lays down that if a member accepts redundancy or early retirement 'he/she shall thereupon cease to be a member of the society".

national officers that "-volun-

The company said last night that it had received firm assurances from senior teers would not in this case lose their union membership.

A management spokesman said he understood that the agreements referred to by Mr Murdoch involved the Natsopa branch of Revisers, Ink and Roller Makers and Auxiliaries, one Society of Graphical and Allied Trades chapel, National Graphical Association stereo employees and the Society of Lithographic Artists, Designers and Engravers.

Mr Murdoch said that while the management had been negotiating with other groups in some cases for several days or weeks, it had been trying to negotiate with Natsopa clerical employees for the past 12 months and had been "frustrated at every turn".

He added: "We are not turning anyone out. We are trying to negotiate a settlement here to make this place economic and viable and save these two newspapers. . . . We are trying to save 2,000 jobs." Asked if he believed the papers would continue to publish, he added: "I reserve judgment on that for another week".

The management is hoping to begin negotiations over the next two or three days with other key chapels where agreements have still not been concluded, including NGA and Natsopa machine areas. *The Sunday Times* Natsopa machine assistants' representatives are to meet the management tomorrow.

Mr Barry Fitzpatrick, father of *The Sunday Times* Natsopa clerical chapel, said the latest move was an attempt to pressure "people who have been through a hell of a lot over the last few years". He added: "I think it will fail miserably."

Petronia Lashly, Lillian McGinn and Cathryn Lawton, all parents of St Saviour pupils and (right) Mr Michael Storey, chairman of the education committee.

Terror school headmaster 'shattered'

By Nicholas Timmins

The headmaste of the Liverpool school which was terrorized and vandalized by pupils aged nie to 11 was described yesrday as a "shattered man".

Mr Nichael Strey, chairman of Liverpool Eucation Committee, said Mr Colin McLoughlin, th head of St Saviour's Churc of England primary school, in Toxteth, had asked for sck leave and early retirement in July from the school, wher pupils burnt books, smashed winows, terrorized younger pupils and daubed teacher cars with canteen swill.

Mr Storey's announcement came as Ms Margaret Thatcher said se was "very concerned" abou events at the school, and as a teacher's union leader gave a warning that many teachers in Toxteth, scene of one of last year's riots, were cracking under the strain of teaching in its schools.

Mrs Thatcher told the Commons at question time that "parents and all citizens have a duty both to teach the principle of law and order and to see that it is upheld".

The Government, she said, would fight strenuously any reductio nin policing of the area "in these difficult days."

Mr Store ysaid that the events ha dobviously made Mr McLoughlin. He was a man who had given a lifetime of service to education, much of it at St Saviour's "He is a shattered man the trouble has driven him to despair."

One other teacher at the school, which at one-to-16 has one of the best teacher-pupil ratios in the country, is under medical treatment, and yesterday Mr James Ferguson, secretary of the National Union of Teachers in Liverpool, said many were cracking under the strain.

"In Toxteth teachers are screaming for help", he said. "Many o fthem seem to be very near nervous breakdown. "In some schools we have up to 25 per cent of the staff off ill. "Most teachers do not last longer than two years after they retire, because of high blood pressure, but now some do not even reach retirement age."

As Mr Storey promised more staff fo rthe school when it reopens on Monday after an extended half-term closure, parents were bebing called to a crisis meeting with the staff, and police were investigating whether there were any links with last summer's riots. The Society of Teachers Opposed to Physical Punishment (Stopp), said yesterday that excessive caning had provoked the trouble.

Mr. Tom Scott, the society's secretary, said: "In the incident that sparked off the riot in the school, seven children were subjected to amass caning. We have information that this is not he first tim groups of children have been caned."

A girl aged nine at the school said yesterday that she had been threatened many times by older children, boys and girls of ten and eleven, demanding 60p a week "protection money". The girl, who has three sisters aged eight, seven and four, all at the school, is an asthmatic, and said she was often beaten because she did not have the 60p to pay.

Her mother said her fears often brought on serious asthma attacks. The girl said she had been happy there, from the nursery class at the age of three, until last year, when "nasty things" started to happen.

Another parent said her son aged 10 had stolen 10 from his father to pay protection money, and the caretaker of the school, Mr Cyril Kaini, aged 25, said he believed that teachers were fortunate to leave after school-hours.

'Nobody has seen anything like it'

□ Local authorities, the Schools Inspectorate and teacher unions were united yesterday in believing that they had never come across anything resembling the breakdown at St Saviour's (Our Education Correspondent writes).

No one could remember a school having to close because of disruptive action by pupils, except in cases of arson. School violence and vandalism appear to have levelled off, since the rise in the early 1970s.

The inspectorate, in their survey two years ago of secondary schools, found that "the very great majority were orderly. hardworking, and free from any serious troubles".

Court told of attack on blacks

By Lucy Hodges

Two days before a group of black youths raded a public house in Thornon Heath, south London, and later killed a white teenager, some young blacks had been attacked outside the same public house, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

Mr Peter Marren, a barman at the Wilton Arms, said that Robert Kennett, a skinhead who wore a National Front tattoo, had led an attack on four blacks in a car.

Two days later, on June 1 last, a gang of black youths raided the Wilton Arms. Mr Kennett and other customers were injured and later Mr Terence May, aged 19, died

The trial was held up yesterday when a juror said that she was related by marriage to a defence barrister. She was discharged and the whole jury was sworn in again.

The 15 defendants have denied taking part in a riot. Seven deny charges of murdering Mr May.

The case continues today.

Computer pact in Whitehall

By David Felton, Labour Reporter

Civil Service unions are close to an agreement with the Government on the introduction of new technology, but the two sides are still in disagreement over the terms of reference for arbitration to settle this year's pay claim.

The unions rejected the Government's pay offer to 520,000 white collar staff, ranging from a nil increase to 5.5 per cent for the settlement due on April 1, and have opted to go direct to arbitration.

The nine unions and the Treasury, which now handles Civil Service pay, cannot agree terms of reference for the arbitration tribunal and it is likely that the hearing will take place on the basis of disputed terms.

The Governments' "market forces" offer to civil servants, which is directed towards giving the largest increases to groups of staff where there are recruitment difficulties, falls well short of the claim submitted by the unions for 13 per cent increases.

The interim agreement on the introduction of new technology in government departments will be mainly for presentational value and is unlikely to have any immediate effect because the main systems that the Government wants to introduce will not be ready for some years.

The interim agreement will run for two years and is unlikely to affect the introduction of computers into the Paye tax system, which is not due for completion until the latter part of the decade.

The Government has agreed that there will be no compulsory redundancies as a result of the introduction of new technology.

□ Dissatisfaction over the outcome of last year's Civil Service pay dispute has led to a revived debate in the Inland Revenue Staff Federation, with 58,000 members, over whether it should set up a political fund with the aim of affiliating to the Labour Party (Philip Webster writes).

Opposition has come from Lord Houghton of Sowerby, a former general secretary of the federation, who questioned whether affiliation to any party is wise in an era of rapid political change.

The debate is being conducted through the columns of the federation's journal, *Taxes*.

Mr John Willman, its editor, said yesterday: "After what happened last year there is a growing feeling among our members that their pay and conditions have moved into the political arena. This year the Government has said that it reserves the right to overturn any arbitration award that is made by putting it to Parliament. If that happened it would be explosive."

Lord Houghton, writing in *Taxes*, says: "My own approach is one of the strongest doubt whether the control of a political party by trade union money and power is desirable at all. Both the Labour and Conservative parties represent class interests cratic Party."

The union block vote at Labour conferences was scarcely the representative voice of their members on contemporary political affairs. "There are signs today of a reaction in the country against our class-dominated and financed two-party system. This is showing itself in the dramatic upsurge of the Social Demo-

Hard times at the Round House

Malcolm Clarke

Thelma Holt, the director, outside the Round House yesterday. Below, right: The theatre in its original form as the New Great Circular Engine House.

By David Hewson

Illustrated London News

The arts venue originally built as an engine shed by Robert Stephenson, the railway engineer, faces bankrauptcy because of uncertainty over local authority grants. The Round House Theatre is in Camden, north London, which started life in 1847 and later served as a wine store and factory before being turned to more aesthetic matters, may close in a matter of weeks, Thelma Holt, its director, said yesterday.

It is not the first time financial difficulties have struck the unlikely venue, which is normally used for performances by international theatre companies and orchestras, occasionally brightened by more bizarre performances.

Vanessa Redgrave spent a memorable period in the building surrounded by a large pool of water for *The Lady from The Sea*, and a production by the Science Fiction Theatre of Liverpool featured a live goat and a cast given to leaping into the audience offering free marijuana cigarettes.

But Miss Holt said the latest crisis was more serious and pressing than any the Round House had faced. "There is no point in my hiding the fact that we are in dire straits. I could not pay my bills if I were asked to tomorrow."

The venue, which is run by a charitable trust, blames its difficulties on uncertainties over its grant income. Last year it received £90,000 from the Arts Council, £20,000 from the Greater London Council and £10,000 and an exemption from rates from the London Borough of Camden.

The Arts Council is expected to increase its grant by about 6 per cent this year, but the GLC and Camden are undecided about how much to give.

Miss Holt denied that she was trying to rush the authorities into an early decision. She said she had made them aware since May that the theatre had financial problems.

Foco Novo, a visiting company, opens at the Round House tonight with Bertolt Brecht's *Edward II*.

Employers in protest at rate rise

From Craig Seton
Bristol

Chairmen, managing directors and senior executives of some of the largest industries in Avon uncharacteristically took to the streets of Bristol yesterday in protest against a proposed rates rise of just under 40 per cent, which is due to be approved by the county council tomorrow.

Nearly eighty of them, in suits and ties and clearly feeling the cold, picketed the offices of the Labour-controlled Avon County Council, politely handing out leaflets saying that the 39.8 per cent increase could force some of them out of business and increase unemployment.

The unlikely but well behaved display of managers' militancy was organized by the south-west region of the Confederation of British Industry as part of a last-ditch campaign, as they call it, to stop the rise, which the CBI says will take an additional £18.25m from industry and commerce in Avon.

A full-page advertisement in the local morning newspaper was also published yesterday giving the names and telephone numbers of every member of the county council and asking people to ring them to protest at the rates rise. The Labour group insists that the rise has been forced on it by fierce government cuts in the rate support grant.

The protesters began after a working breakfast at a four star hotel and kept up their picket throughout the day. There were no banners or placards.

Mr John Main, the south-west chairman of the CBI, said it had gone extremely well. He was clearly aware of the publicity power of such a demonstration, inevitably dubbed the "pinstripe protest". But he insisted that it had a serious point.

Mr Main said the proposed rise in Avon compared with only 6.9 per cent for Somerset, 9.6 per cent for Gloucestershire and 13.9 per cent for Wiltshire.

Science report

Mystery of sisters' fatigue is revealed

By the staff of "Nature"

The reason why two sisters have been unable since early childhood to run more than a few paces without suffering fatigue and nausea has been discovered by a new application of an old technique.

Nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy (NMR) has been used by chemists for many years to work out how atoms are linked together in molecules. Now Dr George Radda and his colleagues in laboratories and hospitals in Oxford and London have reported the detection of the abnormal biochemical metabolism of the tissues of the sisters by the harmless procedure of placing their forearm within an NMR machine for a few minutes.

NMR spectroscopy makes use of the fact that the nuclei of certain atoms behave as tiny magnets, aligning their magnetic moments either with or against an applied magnetic field. The nuclei can absorb radiowave energy to flip from one alignment to another. Analysis provides detailed information on the nature and amount of the chemical species with magnetic nuclei.

The decision to use NMR to investigate the two sisters was taken after one sister suffered her worst attack of muscular weakness and sickness. Hospital tests after the attack showed abnormally high blood levels of lactic acid, a chemical that normally accumulates during exercise and is thought to be a cause of muscle fatigue.

Lactic acid is produced by muscles when they are unable to obtain oxygen fast enough to burn up the sugars that are their main source of energy. It therefore seemed likely that the sisters' unusual lack of stamina lay in a defect in the metabolic reactions which energize muscles.

A central role in such reactions is played by molecules which contain phosphorus. Since the common isotope of phosphorus, ^{31}P, has a magnetic nucleus, it was feasible to use NMR spectroscopy to measure the levels of molecules containing phosphorus in the muscular tissue of the sisters before and after exercise.

Compared to spectra from healthy individuals, those of the sisters clearly showed an abnormal response

The levels of high-energy phosphate molecules in their muscles dropped very rapidly and recovered only very slowly after exercise. The slow speed of regeneration of high energy molecules accounts for the muscular fatigue of the sisters and fits well with the fact that one of them is deficient in an enzyme of the regenerative mechanisms.

Only recently have spectrometers become available to allow the applications of NMR to the study of human biochemical disease. The great advantage of this technique is that it is completely harmless. It does, however, require sophisticated and expensive machinery. The question now is whether studies such as those of Dr Radda and his colleagues will prove that the clinical value of NMR spectroscopy is sufficient to justify the purchase of spectrometers by hospitals.

Source: *Nature* vol. 295 page 608, 18 Feb., 1981.

SDP FIGHTS 19 SEATS IN WALES

By Philip Webster
Political Reporter

National negotiators of the Liberal and Social Democratic parties were hopeful last night that they would come close to meeting their March 31 deadline for the division of parliamentary seats.

Guarded optimism was evident in both camps as negotiators in Cardiff formally signed an agreement under which the SDP will fight 19 of the Welsh parliamentary seats and the Liberals 17. And the national negotiators, after their fortnightly meeting in London, announced provisional deals for the 16 seats in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight and 25 seats in the West Midlands.

The greatest relief was being voiced over the comparatively speedy settlement in Wales, although it was not achieved without some hitches. The Liberals will contest Barry, Caernarvon and Brecon and Radnor, on all of which the SDP had set their sights, but in return the SDP will fight Anglesey, which is regarded as a prime target, and Pembroke, held by Mr Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales.

Mr Thomas Ellis, Social Democrat MP for Wrexham, who led the SDP team, said: "Concessions have been made on both sides to get the best possible balance of candidates".

Overseas selling prices
Austria Sch 28; Bahrain BD 0.660; Belgium B frs 40; Canada $2.50; Canaries Pes 125; Cyprus 550 mils; Denmark Dkr 7; Dubai Dir 7.00; Finland Mkk 7.00; France Frs 7.00; Germany DM 3.50; Greece Dr 80; Holland Gl 3.25; Iran IR 135; Iraq LD 0.500; Irish Republic 30p; Italy L 1800; Jordan LD 0.425; Kuwait KD 0.450; Lebanon LL 4.00; Luxembourg Lf 33; Madeira Esc 75; Malta 30c; Morocco Dir 7; Norway Kr 7.50; Oman OR 0.700; Pakistan Rps 12; Portugal Esc 90; Qatar QR 7.50; Saudi Arabia SR 4.50; Singapore $5.00; Spain Pes 125; Sweden Skr 8.00; Switzerland S Frs 3.00; Syria LS5.50; Tunisia Din 600; USA $1.50; UAE Dir 7.00; Yugoslavia Din 50.

Bill may tighten jury rules to bar criminals

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The Government is considering action to tighten qualifications for jury service because of growing concern about convicted criminals being allowed to sit on juries. Police and barristers are also worried about an increase on the number of times jurors are being approached to be asked to give not guilty verdicts.

Under the present law there is a lifetime's disqualification from jury service for people who are given a custodial sentence of five years or more. Anyone who has finished a sentence of three months or more or had borstal training is disqualified for 10 years.

People can still serve when they receive a suspended sentence of imprisonment, or community service, or a fine, even if the offence of which they are convicted could carry a custodial sentence which would disqualify them.

That means, for example, that a burglar who was fined or a rapist given a suspended sentence could serve on a jury at the trial of another burglar or rapist the next week.

Last week a man who had 18 convictions and had served six prison sentences said he would refuse to take the oath when called for jury service next month.

He had convictions for theft, deception and drunkenness and had been in jail for non-payment of fines, but was still eligible for jury service because each sentence was for less than three months.

The Criminal Justice Bill, now before Parliament, provides an opportunity for change. One way for the Government to tighten the rules would be to extend disqualification, for a suitable period to anyone convicted of an offence that could be punishable on indictment with imprisonment.

□ A startling increase in the number of young offenders sentenced to be detained at her Majesty's pleasure for life or for a period decreed by the Home Secretary for offences such as murder, manslaughter or robbery has occurred in the past decade, Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk, Labour MP for Ormskirk, said yesterday.

He told the committee examining the Criminal Justice Bill that 80 offenders under the age of 18 were sentenced under section 53 of the Children and Young Persons Act in 1979, compared with 50 in 1973 and 12 in 1971.

He asked whether this 600 per cent increase indicated that more young offenders were committing extremely serious offences, or whether the courts were making more use of section 53.

A second cause of concern, Mr Kilroy-Silk said, was the accommodation that offenders sentenced under that section were placed in. Figures published in October, 1981, showed that 24 young people sentenced under that section were placed in community homes, 11 in youth treatment centres and 27 in penal establishments.

In 1979 the Magistrates' Association expressed concern at the lack of suitable accommodation for those detained under section 53 and urged the Government to take action.

The Prison Officers' Association expressed concern also, and the all party penal affairs group of MP's of which Mr Kilroy-Silk is chairman, urged the Government to ensure that the offenders were in accommodation suited to the needs of "disturbed juveniles" instead of prison department establishments.

Mr Kilroy-Silk was speaking in support of an amendment to the Criminal Justice Bill, tabled by Mr Alexander Lyon, Labour MP for York, which would repeal section 53 of the Children and Young Persons Act, 1933.

Introducing the amendment, Mr Lyon said that the new Bill made the section redundant. It brought in a system of youth custody akin to imprisonment for those under 17 and a young offender could be sentenced for life.

He said that since 1933 the total number of young people under 18 detained at her Majesty's pleasure was 194. Those under 17 sentenced for offences which would carry terms of imprisonment of 14 years of more but not life were 414, of whom 353 had been sentenced since 1972 and 266 since 1976.

Rejecting the amendment, Mr Patrick Mayhew, Minister of State at the Home Office, said there would be a lacuna if section 53 was repealed. It would mean that sentences on those under 17 for grave offenes other than murder would be limited to 12 months.

Police may face 20% cutback in manpower

By Richard Evans

Police forces in some of Britain's provincial cities may face manpower cuts of up to 20 per cent because of restrictive Government expenditure targets, Mr Jack Smart, chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, said yesterday.

He told the association's quarterly meeting in London: "There is no way in which the metropolitan counties can get anywhere near the government expenditure target without making large cuts in the police forces.

"If police expenditure is to bear its full share of the cuts there will have to be severe reductions in police manpower, perhaps in some instances by as much as 20 per cent."

Although the Government has transferred £13m from the budget of the Metropolitan Police for 1982-83 to provincial forces, Mr Smart said that there was still a 19 per cent increase in expenditure in the Metropolitan Police, "compared with 3 per cent in Merseyside."

The Labour-controlled AMA represents the Greater London Council and the metropolitan councils of Merseyside, Greater Manchester, West and South Yorkshire, Tyne and Wear and the West Midlands.

In spite of Mr Smart's warning about manpower cutbacks, two Metropolitan county councils have trimmed their police budget without loss of jobs.

West Midlands is losing £2.2m form its budget of £115m; but a spokesman said last night that the biggest savings would involve reduced police overtime.

Merseyside has reduced its police spending by £3m to £83.5m. Instead of reducing manpower that authority is reducing the number of vehicles it planned to buy and is not taking on any new recruits this year.

Norwich to sell off houses again

□ Norwich City Council has again been entrusted with the job of selling its council houses after losing a court action against Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, who took over the sales. (our Norwich Correspondent writes)

The council is to take on an extra 12 staff and hpes to clear the backlog of 850 houses by the end of march.



Slippery customers: Children in Southwark, south-east London, trying out an artificial ice skating surface made of a new plastic, on display at the north Peckham Civic Centre until today

Blacks to form new civil rights body

By Lucy Hodges

A black civil rights movement, including a scheme to help people arrested at any time of the day or night, is to be launched in Britain. In June a conference with speakers from the *United States* will be held in London, at which Lord Scarman will be the chief speaker.

The setting up of Black Rights (UK) is announced in this week's *Caribbean Times*. Black organizations are invited to apply to take part in its formation. A meeting is to be held on Saturday at the offices of the newspaper in Finsbury Park, north London.

The initiative has come from the *Caribbean Times* and from Mr Rudy Narayan, the barrister from Guyana who writes a legal column for the newspaper. Mr Roy Sawh, a race relations veteran, and Mr Sibghat Kadri, a barrister and co-chairman of the Society of Black Lawyers, are also involved.

Moves to form the movement have taken place in secrecy, in contrast with the decision in June, 1980, to set up an Afro-Asian and Caribbean alliance. That came to nothing though its inception was well publicized partly because delegates called at the same time for blacks to boycott the police.

Mr Kadri said yesterday that the organizers of the present campaign had learnt their lesson. Black Rights (UK) would not attempt to represent black communities but would act as a pressure group and provide a service for blacks.

The group will be all black, he said, in contrast to a recent initiative launched by the Runneymede Trust to set up a legal service for blacks.

Some observers are somewhat sceptical about whether Black Rights (UK) will succeed. There have been a number of attempts in the past to set up a civil rights movement. They have foundered on the mutual suspicion of black organizations.

Doctors not to be charged

By Annabel Ferriman

The Director of Public Prosecutions will not bring charges against two doctors alleged to have carried out illegal abortions.

Professor Peter Huntingford, former Professor of Obstetrics at the London Hospital, Mile End, and an unnamed doctor were referred to the DPP by the Department of Health and Social Security for failing to fill in new abortion forms correctly.

The new forms require a statement of "medical grounds" for an abortion. The old forms required only social grounds.

Sir Michael Havers, QC, the Attorney General, said on Monday that no charges would be brought because the doctors told the police there were medical grounds for the abortions.

Professor Huntingford denies that and says he will continue to ignore requests for medical grounds when carrying out abortions for social reasons.

MP blames Whitehall for viaduct blackspot

By Anthony Bevins
Political Correspondent

The Department of Transport is trying to take central control of maintenance and repair on the country's motorway blackspot, the 13 miles of M6 and M5 viaducts in and around Briminghan.

But Mr Jeffrey Rooker, Labour MP for Birmingham, Perry Bar, said last night that Whitehall civil servants had been responsible for the original blunders which had caused so much inconvenience to drivers and expense for the taxpayer.

"This is the crunch issue", he said. "The whole thing is falling apart and its costing a fortune. Who is going to get the work; the builders who built it or the builders who repaired it the first time round?"

A spokesman for the department said that it was not known precisely how much the elevated structures of the Midlands links motorways had cost by the time of completion 10 years ago, although Mr Rooker put it at about £1m a mile.

Since then the department said, about £12.6m had been spent on repairs to the viaducts. Altogether 57 steel beams, underpinning the motorway, have "dropped" by up to three quarters of an inch because of faults in mortar.

Mr Kenneth Clarke, Under-Secretary of State at the department, has told Mr Rooker in a Commons written reply that the West Midlands County Council had been approached with a suggestion "that the highly specialized task of maintaining the structural part of the viaducts on the Midlands links motorways should in future be excluded from our agency agreement with them".

That means that the department will take direct repsonsibility for the repairs to the motorway, "deck, and below deck", including work on beams, bearings and pillars, but not routine resurfacing.

The department would let the work out to contractors rather than allow the West Midlands Coundty Council to let the work out to contractors; but control of the work done would be much more closely scrutinized.

Mr Rooker said that all the difficulties of the system, including the so-called spaghetti junctions at Gravelly Hill, had been caused by the original ministry cost-cutting design and a lack of proper supervision in the work done.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

College rent rise blow to traders

Traders in Oxford's High Street say they are being forced out of business by demands for higher rents from Oxford colleges which own their buildings. (Our Oxford Correspondent writes).

Mrs Laurie Leigh, an antique dealer, says Queen's Colleges wants to raise her rent from £1,600 a year to £10,500. She has written to Lord Blake, Provost of Queen's to protest at the college's callousness and irresponsibility.

Most of the buildings in the street are owned by colleges, insurance companies or pension funds. A hairdresser, Roland of Switzerland, moved out and made three people redundant after a pension fund raised his rent from £2,000 to £10,000 a year.

Mr Nicholas Dimsdale, bursar of Queen's, said the college was concerned about its traders but had to take market rents into account.

Student denies throwing eggs

Alastair Dow, aged 21, a student of Claremont, Alloa, denied throwing two eggs at the Prime Minister's car when he appeared at Edinburgh Sheriff court yesterday.

He also pleaded not guilty to conducting himself in a disorderly manner and committing a breach of the peace on May 16 last in Edinburgh. The trial was fixed for July 26.

EEC loan for airport

A loan of £2m was granted by the European Economic Community yesterday towards an expansion programme at Birmingham airport. It is the first EEC aid towards the £50m construction of a new terminal building, aprons, taxiways, car parks and ancillary services intended to be finished in 1984. More aid is expected later.

Siege chief promoted

Mr John Dellow, aged 50, the police officer in command of the Iranian embassy siege operation in London in 1980, in which SAS men successfully stormed the building, has been appointed an Assistant Commissioner at Scotland Yard, the Home Office announced yesterday.

Ben Nevis, the venomous one
Why climbers risk avalanches

By Ronald Faux

The 1,000ft high cliffs on the north side of Ben Nevis may appear darkly forbidding to a layman, particularly when they are streaked with ice and when the steep gulleys between the buttresses are choked with unstable snow.

There is added menace from cornices formed by the wind as it whips across the lip of the summit ridge. Spindrift freezes into long cantilevers, which span out until they break under their own weight and thunder downwards.

Some believe the ancient meaning of Nevis is the venomous one. After a week in which five people have died and six hae been badly injured on the mountain that derivation seems cruelly apt.

During some years Ben Nevis has its head in cloud for 300 days. It may be swept by freezing winds, making conditions Arctic.

Yet to a climber those forbidding *cliffs* are very attractive. There are more than 60 routes up the gulleys and buttresses of rock, including the Tower Ridge, a 1,900ft climb first completed in the winter of 1894. The north face of the mountain has been a magnet to mountaineers ever since.

The recent tragedies have raised questions about whether there should be better warning of dangerous conditions in the hills; but the general opinion among Scottish mountaineers remains firmly that good training and experience are the only answer.



Mr William Myles, secretary of the Mountaineering Council of Scotland, was certain that warnings had been given about avalanche danger; but not everyone had been aware of them.

"Over the last 15 years the number of people coming to the mountains has increased at least sevenfold, yet the accident rate has remained at about the same level", he said.

Freak snow conditions caused the latest accidents. Mr Myles hoped that BBC Radio Scotland would resume its weekend broadcasts of mountain condition reports given by local experts from a number of centres in the Highlands.

People, he said, did not always grasp how serious and how severe Scottish conditions could become.

The cause of the accidents was an extreme example of fresh snow settling loosely on old ice that had thawed and frozen bone hard. When the surface snow was disturbed by the climbers it slid down, taking them with it and burying some.

The view that it was up to individuals to decide whether to climb or retreat was taken up by Mr Fred Harper, principal of Glenmore Lodge, the mountain training centre in the Cairngorms, which has 1,000 students a year on winter courses on which avalanche dangers are taught.

Measuring the risk was a scientific business that no mountain centre in Britain was equipped to undertake.

"In the Alps specific warnings are put out by local ski patrols which have a least one member qualified to make scientific judgments about particular slopes", he said. "More generally the yellow and black warning flag flies virtually all the time at some ski resorts.

"The patrols say that they have to fly it to avoid being sued by anyone caught in an avalanche when it was not flying."

But there was another, even more important, element in the equation. Climbers might be taught to judge conditions and to decide that the risk was dangerous; but they might still climb on. Perpaps they had driven several hundred miles to do the climb and were loath to retreat.

The extra sense of objective danger might increase their determination. Sir Geoffrey Winthrop said: "Mountain climbing is an adventure. There can be no adventure without uncertainty of its result, and in good adventure there is also an element of risk, even of danger to life."

Computer can trace type faces

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

Forensic scientists have devised a new way of identifying the machine on which a letter or document of unknown origin has been written. That *type of investigation* has become more time-consuming and more difficult with the addition of electronic typewriters and word processors to the range of machines to be taken into account.

The process was developed by specialists at the Home Office forensic science laboratories at Birmingham and Aldermaston and is described in the *Journal of the Forensic Science Society*. It depends on the ability of a computer to analyse more facets of the type styles of machines than has hitherto been practical.

Methods of analysis evolved over the past 40 years rely on the scrutiny of more than 3,000 specimens of type which have been collected from equipment available for up to seventy years.

The machines include early Hammond and Mignon models, British-made machines of the 1940s and 1950s such as Imperial, Oliver and Royal Barlock, and today's automatic disigns.

The established method of analysis was based on examining a few key features of the printed characters. They included studying the lower case letters w,t,a and g; classifying styles into a broad division of elite, pica or shaded style; and dividing the numerals into a category of short or long tails.

Under the new scheme 30 features are measured, covering general style and letter spacing, and certain upper and lower case letters, figures and signs. The range of analysis has been extended because some documents contain few or or even none of the key features of the existing means of classification.

After the characteristics to be studied had been chosen samples of text were obtained for each of the models and entered into a computer data bank according to a code which gives and individual description to each item.

The innovation over the traditional scheme lies in this system of coding and in the computer programme whereby the data bank can be searched.

BR's £3 ticket

British Rail is offering a £3 go-anywhere ticket to pensioners throughout next month in an attempt to win back passengers after the train driver strike.

Television dispute 'may take months to resolve'

From Arthur Osman, Nottingham

Mr Robert Phillis, managing director of Central Independent Television, admitted yesterday that a solution to the problems that have delayed the launch of its separate service to the East Midlands would take months rather than weeks to resolve.

He agreed that it was possible the delay could be of "indeterminate length" but said the company was still committed to starting the service.

Earlier this month, against a background of new union demands and a projected £2m loss in its first 15 months, Mr Phillis said the company was not prepared to absorb the escalating costs of operating a temporary studio near Nottingham by secondment. That meant an end to a situation where technicians on secondment from the company's Birmingham and Elstree operations were being paid up to £900 a week in addition to their wages.

Mr Phillis insisted that the company had no intention of starting full operations in the East Midlands until firm agreements had been reached with various unions on relocation of staff, a common redundancy payments scheme and working arrangements, terms and conditions for its new studios at Nottingham, which it is hoped will start transmitting late next year.

A condition by the Independent Broadcasting Authority when allocating the Midlands contract to CIT was that it would become a dual franchise region with studios in Nottingham and Birmingham.

COUNTY IN PLEA FOR STATUS

West Yorkshire County Council is afraid that if it loses intermediate area status for its textile and coalfield areas next August the effect will prejudice the county's claim for EEC assistance.

In a submission to Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Industry, the county says employment in the coalfield and textile areas has deteriorated so much that the Government should reverse the plan to withdraw the status.

In a letter to Mr Jenkin Mr John Gunnell, leader of the county council, says in spite of *two years of pleas* by West Yorkshire the Government has been unresponsive.

In the case of textiles the county council has received "informal assurances" from the European Commission that early assistance could be granted.

PARLIAMENT February 23 1982

Frigate ordered: Nott defends carriers sale

DEFENCE

An order had been placed today with Yarrow Shipbuilders for the eighth Broadside class frigate at a total estimated cost £120m, Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Defence, announced during question time exchanges in the Commons when he defended the decision to sell the carrier HMS Invincible to Australia.

He explained that Britain could not afford to deploy the air defence and anti-submarine escorts that would be necessary to protect carriers. It is better (he said) that we keep two in service rather than three and spend the rest of the money on the frigate force.

Mr Nott explained that including the new frigate order, he would have placed orders for warships with British Shipbuilders in the current financial year to a total value, including their weapons, of £450m.

Rounding on his backbenchers he added: Can we please have from some Conservative MP's a little less about a shortage of warship building orders.

Asked for a statement on the role of carriers in the fleet, Mr Nott said: The primary role of our carriers would be to conduct anti-submarine operations in the Eastern Atlantic. In the next few years we intend to make particular use of our carriers in deployment outside the Nato area.

Mr Michael Brotherton (Louth, C): In the light of that reply, would he agree that the coming into commission of HM ships Illustrious and Ark Royal will make a significant contribution to the fleet? Bearing in mind the role played by HMS Invincible in the Autumnal exercise by Nato, to dispose of Invincible now would be an act of folly detrimental to the national interest. (Some Conservative cheers)

Mr Nott: To bring him up-to date, our discussions with the Australians have envisaged a hand-over of Invincible towards the end of 1983 when Illustrious will be operational. We also intend to run on Hermes until Ark Royal joins the fleet in 1985.

We expect a decision by the Australians by the end of the month. If they prefer a later date in 1985 when Ark Royal is in service, we will naturally consider the matter. I would like to debate the role of the carrier, but it is more than we would expect in answer to a question.

Mr Patrick Duffy (Sheffield, Attercliffe, Lab): Given the critical shortage in Saclant of carriers and the interdependence of anti-submarine warfare operations on the surface as well as below and in the air, is he satisfied with the present complement of carriers of no more than three and perhaps only two?

Mr Nott: The carriers make heavy demands. We said in the Defence White Paper of June that we envisaged two carriers being in service. If we had to retain a third carrier, she would go into reserve.

It is better to try to obtain £175m, which is what would go into the naval programme if we sold Invincible to the Australians, rather than have a carrier in reserve. Carriers make heavy demands on supporting anti-submarine and anti-defence escorts.

We want to cover as wide an area as possible in the East Atlantic with frigates that can use Stingray.

Mr Winston Churchill (Stretford, C): The orginal conception of the Invincible class of anti-submarine warfare was that there would be three and that two would be on station at any given time and one in the dockyard.

If he goes ahead with his proposal to sell Invincible to the Royal Australian Navy, this will effectively halve the numbers of these valuable anti-submarine warfare vessels on station at any given moment. Many MPs are strongly opposed to his proposed action.

Mr Nott: No, I cannot confirm that I envisaged three carriers being in service. In the White Paper it was clearly stated that there would be two in service. It is a question of how we can best dispose of our naval resources in acting in the Eastern Atlantic.

The United States has an enormous Navy — ours would be the third most powerful in the world — and we cannot afford to deploy the air defence and anti-submarine escorts that would be necessary to protect the carriers. It is better that we keep two in service rather than three and spend the rest of the money on the frigate force.

Mr Hilary Miller (Bromsgrove and Redditch, C): How is this country to sustain its Nato role in the Eastern Atlantic in anti-submarine operations?

Would he take an early opportunity, outside this House if necessary, to explain his concept of anti-submarine warfare and how we are to meet our responsibilities in the light of the planned disposal of Invincible and the reduction in the number of the frigate fleet of the hunter-killer submarine?

Mr Nott said he was placing today an order with the Yarrow shipyard for the eighth Broadside class frigate at a total estimated cost of about £120m.

This will enable us (he said) to take advantage of the reduced price offer expiring at the end of this month (Laughter) — which will secure a saving, with the seventh frigate we ordered the other day and this one, of about £6m.

Chemicals from behind closed Russian doors

It was time for MPs to concentrate on the threat from Soviet chemical weapons instead of criticizing Britain's American allies, Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Defence, said. Pressed by the Opposition on deployment of chemical weapons, he said there was no proposal to deploy them on British soil.

We have taken the lead (he said) in trying to get a ban on the manufacture of chemical weapons but the Soviet Union, because it has a massive lead in these weapons, deployed forward in Europe, and has 60,000 troops trained to use them while Nato possesses none, refuses to agree to verification measures for a ban.

He was answering Mr Denzil Davies, an Opposition spokesman on defence (Llanelli, Lab) who had accused him of prevaricating on chemical weapons.

Mr Davies had said: We all know there is a Russian stockpile and there is going to be an American stockpile, and I hope for negotiations to reduce them. Will he make clear that the Government has no intention to manufacture chemical weapons or to allow them to be located on British soil whether they are British or American?

Mr Michael McNair-Wilson (Newbury, C): Has any European member of Nato yet asked for chemical weapons to be stationed in their country?

Mr Nott: There is no proposal at present to deploy the new American binary weapon forward in Europe and the Americans have agreed to consult their European allies before any such forward deployment arises.

Mr Frank Haynes (Ashfield, Lab) asked if the stationing of chemical weapons in Europe was discussed at the last meeting of Nato defence ministers.

Mr Nott: No.

Mr Haynes: Many people do not believe Mr Nott's statements on chemical weapons. When will he come clean and let the people know what is going on behind closed doors?

Mr Nott: Russia has 60,000 troops trained in and specially designated to fight in chemical warfare. Their training is carried out in live chemical grounds and we know there are fatal casualties among the soldiers involved in Russia.

Russia holds over 300,000 tons of chemical weapons and much of this is deployed forward into Europe, with the means of delivering it. That is whaat is happening behind closed Russian doors.

Cost advantage in purchase of Trident

Trident will cost less than any other major defence capability of this country in capital terms and far less in running terms, Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Defence, said during questions in the Commons.

Mr Robert Brown (Newcastle upon Tyne, West, Lab) a former junior defence minister, said that pursuance of the Trident programme must mean the sacrifice of the surface fleet and the closure of shipyards like Swan Hunter on Tyneside.

Mr Nott: The Trident programme has hardly cost us anything up to now. The peak expenditure, if we decide to go for Trident 5, on Trident will be in the late 1980s, when the Tornado programme will have run down. The Tornado is costing us £11,250m: far more than Trident will ever cost.

Trident will be costing us less than any other major defence dapability of this country in capital terms and far less in running terms. We are spending £2,000m on Tornados in the next few years. He has the relative scale and cost of Trident entirely out of gear.



Churchill: Sale opposed

Duffy: Critical shortage

Mr Nott explained that the Government had not yet reached its final decision on the UK Trident programme so he was not in a position to make a statement. He told Mr John Silkin, chief Opposition Spokesman on defence and disarmament, that there would continue to be a real increase in defence expenditure on conventional forces. That was not the policy of the Oppostion.

Mr Timothy Renton (Mid Sussex, C): If the Government decides to go for the advanced D5 version of Trident, what trade offers might be offered by the United States to offset the increased cost?

Is he personally convinced that, if we go for the D5 we will still be able to maintain our conventional forces at the necessary levels?

Mr Nott: We will be able to maintain these forces. We are in the process of coming to a decision between C4 and D5 and that requires discussions with the United States. I cannot comment on the first part of his question.

Mr John Silkin, chief Opposition spokesman on defence and disarmament: As the whole of the Government's nuclear policy is destroying our conventional capability, how can he continue to enlarge the Trident programme?

Mr Nott: When we came to office Labour was spending £2,900m in real terms on defence equipment. This year we are spending £5,500m in real terms on this. Everyone knows his policy is to reduce defence spending.

Assuming we come to a decision in favour of Trident, to confirm it, and go for the larger missile, there will still be a substantial real increase in our spending on conventional forces in accordance with our announcement on a 3 per cent increase in defence spending up to 1985-86.

Mr Richard Douglas (Dunfermline, Lab): What are the overriding strategic requirements for taking a decision on Trident now?

Mr Nott: Eight successive governments of all political parties have believed in the need for a strategic independent deterrent. There is nothing new about deciding to modernize that deterrent. The previous Labour Government decided to modernize the deterrent secretly; we are doing so openly.

Tory measures to improve air defences

Although the number of aircraft available for the defence of the United Kingdom was greater than in 1979 and they had an enhanced capability there was still a shortage of fighter pilots, Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Defence, said.

Mr Peter Hardy (Rother Valley, Lab): That is disreputable and hides the fact that many of these aircraft are extremely old. It disregards the fact that for much of the life of the present Government operational flying hours of pilots in the relevant RAF squadrons have been greatly reduced.

How does that equate with the position we heard so much of from Conservative MPs before 1979?

Mr Nott: It takes a good number of years to improve any defence capability. Since we have been in Government we have proceeded with the Nimrod early warning programme, agreed to run on the two Buccaneer squadrons into the 1990s, we are bringing forward the Tornado air defence version which will only be a few months behind schedule, and the VC10 tanker force will multiply our air capability to a large extent. We have agreed to arm 72 of the Hawks. We are redeploying Bloodhound.

Mr Alan Beith (Berwick-upon-Tweed, L): Did he not refer to a window of vulnerability over the next five years? Is that what the price of the Trident programme is?

Mr Nott: I referred to a window of vulnerability in general terms. I was referring to the total capability of Nato as against the Warsaw Pact. The superiority of the Warsaw Pact forces in all areas will continue to increase vis-a-vis that of Nato in the next five years. That is the window of vulnerability.

Mr Anthony Buck (Colchester, C): What we have done about pay and conditions has stopped there being an outflow of trained pilots.

Mr Nott: When we came to power we were about 200 fighter pilots short. We are still short of fighter pilots. It takes two years and a half to recruit and train a fighter pilot.

Miss Oonagh McDonald, an Opposition spokesman on defence (Thurrock, Lab): Will he confirm *The Daily Telegraph* report of January 28 that our frontline air defence system will be reduced by one sixth by the end of this year? In the same interview he referred to the window of vulnerability. Did he say that in the event of air attack we would have immediately to rely on the American air defence force since we would lack our own?

The delays and vacillations in our air defence programme will lead to a major crisis by 1984-85 in our air defence programme. This is shunting off the burden of conventional weapons on to the Next Government.

Mr Nott: When we last debated defence the Labour Party proposed a reduction in defence expenditure of £3,500m. Now I learn that the Opposition is to keep on five dockyards. One has to ask whether they would have nothing but dockyards to defend this country.

Foot demands help for jobless

UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition (Ebbw Vale, Lab), referring to today's published figures of unemployment, asked the Prime Minister at question time: Can we have an assurance that the coming Budget will not, like all the previous Budgets under her administration, add drastically to the unemployment total and that in that Budget she will take steps to restore the benefits to the unemployed who have had their benefits cut under her Government? (Labour cheers)

Mrs Thatcher: Mr Foot will know that I can say virtually nothing about the Budget. I can, however promise him that, unlike certain other previous governments, it is unlikely that we shall go back to the IMF. (Conservative cheers)

Mr Foot: If she cannot or will not answer about the likely increase in unemployment as a result of the Budget, will she answer about the unemployed?

Under her Government there has been a severe cut, of about £10 a week, particularly for the long-term unemployed. In the figures today their number has risen to something like a million. Will she take steps in this Budget to help those she is making unemployed?

Mrs Thatcher: The numbers unemployed for more than a year are between 900,000 and 1,000,000. It is very serious. National insurance changes are usually announced in the Budget. Mr Foot must await them.

He will have seen the additional supplementary estimate which is largely accounted for by the increased unemployment.

Mr Jack Straw (Blackburn, Lab): The Treasury is refusing to give information on the total cost of tax c... last three BudgeC-24foot3...on that the tax on ...e rich has gone down and the tax on everyone else has gone up?

Mrs Thatcher: Tax reductions by definition usually go in greater proportion to those who pay more, (Labour protests). If people do not pay very much tax they cannot get much back on tax reductions, but I would point out that the top 40 per cent of incomes start at about £7,500 a year and that would not be thought of as rich under his definition.

Duty to teach principles of law and order

The Government was concerned about the events at St Saviour's Church of England School in Toxteth, Liverpool, where pupils rioted, Mrs Margatret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said at question time.

She told Mr David Alton (Liverpool, Edge Hill, L) that they were strenuously against any reduction in expenditure on the police or in police numbers.

Mr Alton said: In the light of the trail of destruction at this Liverpool school, did the Prime Minister see the report in *The Guardian* this morning and *The Times* last Friday that politically-motivated left wing groups were involved in indoctrination? (Labour interruptions)

Wouldshe comment on the £500,000 reduction in the policing budget on Merseyside and consider the possibility of reinstating that money to put 1,000 extra policemen on the beat? Parents have a greater responsibility in dealing with their own children.

Mrs Thatcher: We do not believe there should be any reduction in the amount spent, in these difficult days, on the number of police or on the provision of equipment. We should be strenuously against any reduction in the numbers or in expenditure on police numbers. We understand that the community policing is having a veneficial effect in Liverpool. It is hoped it will strengthen relations between the police and the community.

The Government, she said, was concerned about events at the school.

It is (she went on) a relatively new school with a good teacher-pupil ratio. Parents and all citizens have a dut both to tech the priniciples of law and order and see it is upheld. In some of these areas some of the children suffer from what are clled "non-accidental injuries"; sometimes children are abandoned.

This occurs in such areas as this and the social services and voluntary agencies fo eerything they can to diminish it.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Scottish Office. Travel Concessions (London) Bill, second reading. Lords (2.30): Debates on rural housing, problems of the Scottish Highlands, and on A320 Airbus.

Minister condemns IRA for sinking ship

ULSTER

The sinking of by the IRA of the collier ship St Bedan at Lough Foyle, Northern Ireland, was condemned by Mr Nicholas Scott, Under Secretary of State, Northern Ireland Office. He said in a statement that the attack put the crew of the vessel in danger and struck at the livelihoods of people living in the area.

Mr William Ross (Londonderry, Off UU): Will there be increased security force activity in Lough Foyle? It should be brought to the notice of the owners of this vessel that it is the United Kingdom's responsibility for compensation for any losses suffered. Which RUC commander will be responsible?

Mr Scott: The RUC are concerned about this incident. Compensation is a matter for the Department of Trade and the Northern Ireland Office.

On jurisdiction, Lough Foyle is an integral part of the county of Londonderry which is in the United Kingdom. On security, we are already in touch with Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Defence, whose responsibility this is.

Sir John Biggs-Davison (Epping Forest, C): This is not the first time a ship has been sunk in these waters. Is surveillance adequate? This is a matter for the RUC, the Royal Navy, and possibly the RAF.

Mr Scott: The fact this is the second incident of this kind underlines the importance of improved security in future, and that is why we are in touch with Mr Nott.

Mr Alan Beith (Berwick-upon-Tweed, L): The sinking of a ship bringing coal to Northern Ireland is another example of IRA tactics which harm ordinary people living ordinary lives in Northern Ireland.

Mr James Kilfedder (North Down, UU): Since there was a similar incident a year ago there has been negligence by the authorities in not preventing a recurrence of the incident. The IRA has described the sinking as an "economic measure", but in truth the IRA are seeking the maximum publicity for their campaign.

Mr Scott: Of course they are seeking maximum publicity for their campaign. It is in our interests to ensure we respond appropriately to the action they have taken. I am sure in cooperation with Mr Nott appropriate measures will be taken.

Mr Clive Soley, an Opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland, (Hammersmith North, Lab): We oppose paramilitary activity of this kind from wherever it comes.

Mr Scott: The Department of Trade gives advice on security to vessels using all ports in the United Kingdom, including Northern Ireland ports.

Maintaining decent English

LANGUAGE

The Speaker (Mr George Thomas), warning MPs about the use of unparliamentary language, called for an effort to maintain decent English in debates.

Mr Frank Haynes (Ashfield, Lab), on a point of order, said he wondered if there was a list of words which should not be used in the Commons because they were considered unparliamentary.

Not many days ago (he said) you pulled me up at question time for using the word hell. This afternoon the word "devil" was used.

Bearing in mind the devil lives there—(laughter)—I seek your guidance on this question so that I do not get out of order in future.

The Speaker: I am a greater authority on a place in a different direction. What I object to is saying, in the middle of a speech, "What the hell". If we are going to descend in parliamentary debates to that sort of expression it will not be long before we go lower down again.

There must be some effort to maintain decent English. It is a good language which caters for every mood.

MPs seek more time for minority rights in Canada

CANADA BILL

When the committee stage began, **Mr Enoch Powell (South Down, Off UU)** moved the first of a series of amendments to the schedule of the Bill, which sets out the new Canadian Constitution Act, and in particular to the fundamental freedoms set out therein.

Among other amendments being considered was one to insert in the new constitution provisions for an Aboriginal Rights Commission.

He said the natural meanings of what the Commons might be thought to be doing was giving to judges of a court the ultimate poitical decisions as to what was a free society, what was a democratic society and what was justifiable in such a society.

His conclusion was that Canada had no intention and no notion that it intended to be a country where poitical decisions were taken on the judical bench.

Sir Bernard Braine (South-East Essex, C) said these were constructive amendments. Their inclusion, would provide a much better constitution, able to reflect with honour the unique relationship between the native peoples, who rightly called themselves the first nations of Canada, and the Europeans, who settled there from the seventeenth century onwards. This relationship of distinct peoples was the cornerstone upon which modern Canada was built.

The native peoples wanted a form of self-government within the sovereignty of Canada and they had a right to this. A greater degree of self-government would secure for them the continuation in future generations of their distinct identity.

They cried out to MPs to help protect them from assimilation with the majority of people from European origin. Their right to continue to flourish was recognized by the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights.

Mr Francis Pym, Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House, said there had been inter-party discussions to try to find a way of giving the committee a bit more time but this had not been found practicable. The time between committee and second reading was short but there were precedents for constitutional Bills being taken in committee on the floor of the House in a week after second reading.



Braine: Too little time for reflection.

When the Bill was published two months ago the main arguments were already well known.

He had no idea about the future progress and timing of the Bill. There was a desire in Canada for progress but when the measure would leave the Commons and receive Royal Assent he had no idea.

Lloyd's Bill

The Lloyd's Bill, which is designed to improve the self-regulatory mechanisms of the insurance market, completed its report stage early today. The immunity clause went through unaltered after an attempt to amend it was defeated by 71 votes to 18.

Price controls wanted

BACKBENCH BILL

Miss Betty Boothroyd (West Bromwich, West Lab) was given leave under the 10-minute rule to bring in a Bill to give the Secretary of State for Trade powers to control the prices of essential goods and services. The Essential Goods and Services (Price Control) Bill was read a first time.

She said there was major public cencern, at the increasing costs of goods and services which were an essential ingredient to every family's living standards, as well as sizeable element of the family budget, such as the cost of a home, the increaing cost of heating that home, and the charges imposed for health services.

For three years there had been no minister responsible for price regulation or monitoring. The consumer had been treated like a captive army having to do the paying while the state industries were being made the scapegoat for inflation.

What was needed was a Bill which would identify one single minister responsible to the House and through it to the people for these never-ending increases. He should have powers to refer to an independent body outside the House to see that justice was done.

Asking this Government to safeguard the interests of millions of families was like putting the train robbers in charge of the silver vaults. She wanted to see those people who had to do the paying receive justice and fairness.

Patients to be told their rights

A Government which would give mental patients transferred from prison to hospital or mental nursing home the right to a hearing before the Mental Health Review Tribunal within six months of their transfer was agreed to.

Moving the amendment, **Lord Belstead, Under Secretary of State, Home Office,** said that at present the law left a gap in which this category of patient, unlike those subject to hospital orders, would not have had his or her case looked at recently by a court, with evidence given by two medical practitioners.

The grounds of their detention in hospital would not have previously been considered by a court, and the Government accepted that such patients should have immediate right to a tribunal hearing. This would go some way to meet concerns expressed by Opposition MPs.

Lord Avebury (L) welcomed the change, although, he said, it did not go as far as his amendment at committee stage — that patients sould have right to a tribunal hearing before transfer.

A Government amendment to the Mental Health (Amendment) Bill will ensure that all patients detained in mental hospitals are informed of their rights both orally and in writing, **Lord Elton, Under Secretary of State for Health and Social Security,** said in the House of Lords when the report stage began.

He said the amendment, which was agreed to, also provided that steps should be taken to ensure, as far as was practicable, that the patient understood his rights and that this was done as soon as possible after admission.

There was also a requirement that the person most closely concerned with the patient should be informed of those rights. This might not necessarily be the closest relative whom it might not always be possible to contact. It would be left to the discretion of the hospital managers who would know the patient and his situation.

He emphasized the importance of ensuring that written information was given in a form appropriate to the individual to ensure it could be understood and passed on to anyone else thought appropriate.

Lord Winstanley (L) who had proposed an amendment along similar lines said he would wthdraw it after hearing the Government proposal. He welcomed the move because, he said, a patient detained in a mental hospital was often defenceless and vulnerable.

It was right that the hospital managers should be given further responsibility towards patients as they had the ultimate responsibility for their detention.

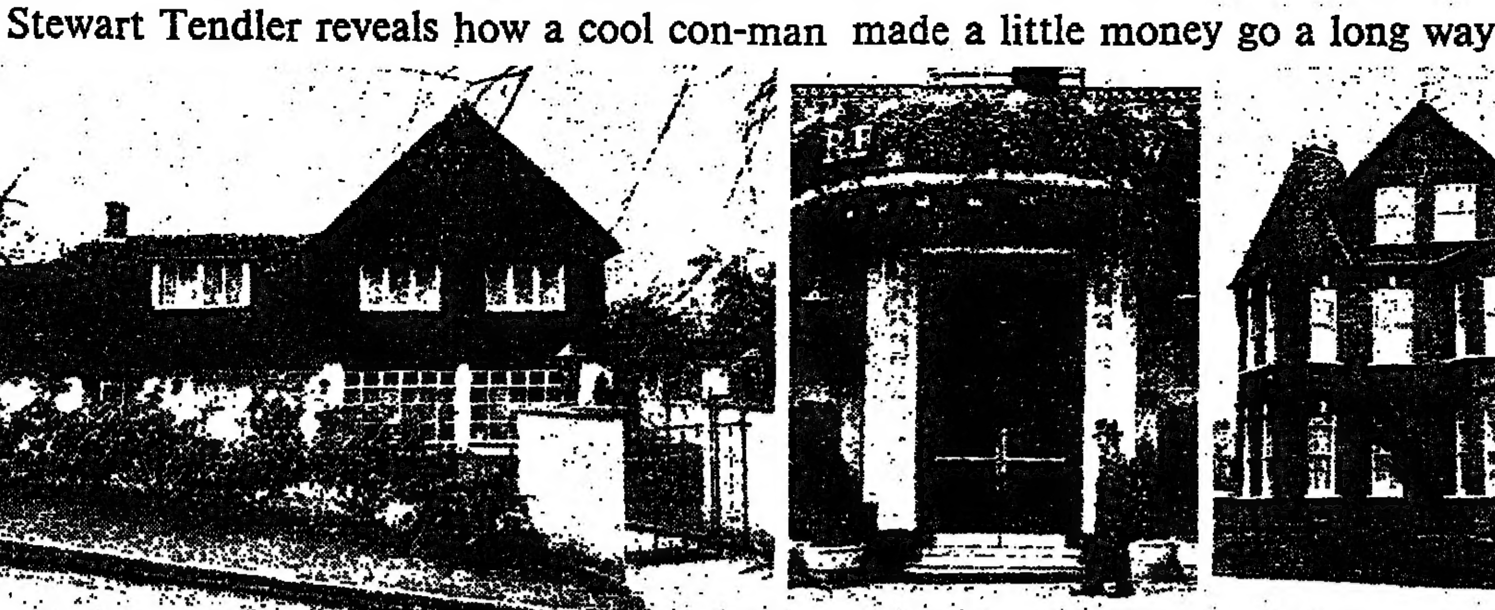
هكذا من الأصل

Stewart Tendler reveals how a cool con-man made a little money go a long way



The "cross-fire" cheque artist: Siegmund Sperber — charm, skill and panache, and the alias Georg Pratten.





His country house: Little Stream, Virginia Water — antiques, 102 expensive suits, a Mercedes, a Rolls-Royce and a Jaguar, and gold decor dominant. Guests were rare.

The Waldorf: Sperber did his deals here, but the police waited in vain.



The convent: Used, unknown to the nuns, as a "dead letter" drop.



The sleuth: Det Sgt John Mullally, whose doggedness matches Sperber's cunning.

How Siegmund Sperber lived high off the banks

At Interpol in Paris the last trace of Siegmund Sperber was in Switzerland 10 years ago; the file says "identity uncertain". On the Antwerp diamond *bourse*, dealers thought he was dead, killed in a mysterious car crash in 1974. The police in Rome wanted to talk to him about a billion lira fraud in 1976.

Yesterday at the Central Criminal Court, Sperber, known in Britain as Georg Pratten, was sent to prison for five years for his part in what was, by his standards, a minor piece of chicanery. For Mr. Sperber is a monarch of international frauds, king of a system of financial musical chairs which has milked banks across Europe *of nearly £3m in the past few* years.

He has not been tried for these offences. When on case was brought before the courts last autumn after complex police investigations it was thrown out on a technicality.

Siegmund Sperber is the sort of man bank managers seem to take to immediately. He arrives driving an expensive car. Well dressed, he travels as a middle-aged *international businessman*, usually in diamonds, who exudes a Mittel European charm (which at the age of 64 still wins him more than his fair share of women).

The confident patter is underlined by a gesture of the hands, a sweep of the arms. He explains that he is no babe in the world of finance but he needs a little help, not being too well acquainted with the procedures of his victim's country. He wants to open an account and he needs a little understanding, like credit facilities and transfer arrangements. Sir, he tells the manager, my business depends on flexibility.

Indeed it does. Mr Sperber's speciality is a fraud technically known as cheque "cross-firing". Since the advent of computers it has rarely been seen; most banks assume they are no longer at risk. Mr Sperber has personally disabused several leading European banks of that belief.

The scheme is complex, involving considerable juggling and timing of the international banking system. Put at its simplest it involves a victim bank in one country and accounts at other banks in second country.

The first move is to open current and deposit accounts with the intended victim. The second stage is to build up a credit rating and demonstrate respectability. So far Mr Sperber is a normal customer.

What the victim does not know is that Mr Sperber is also opening up a network of *accounts under other names*, or using associates abroad. At the centre of the network is a clearing bank.

Over weeks or months Mr Sperber begins to circulate money from the victim bank through the other accounts and then back to the original current account. Sometimes he is in the black, sometimes in the red. The bank does not worry. He seems a very active customer with business relations with many people and other banks, and he is paying interest on the current account overdraft.

Once confidence is established Mr Sperber asks his first victim bank to transfer money by telex to another account on the security of *uncleared cheques* received from banks in the network. These will take days to clear against a transfer on the victim bank, which can be completed the same day.

All the time Mr Sperber, with a stroke of impudence, is using the *victim bank's* momey to redeem post-dated cheques at the other banks. The amount of money circulating rises. At the victim bank the uncleared balance is the one calculated on the day a cheque is received but the true balance of Mr Sperber's total indebtedness is not known, except by Mr Sperber. Only when the cheque is cleared by the bank on which it is drawn is the true balance revealed — but that is only for a fraction of the time, because Mr Sperber is repeating the process.

By this time Mr Sperber has cheques coming into his account, let us say, of £250,000 to set against an overdraft of £300,000. The *bank is still not worrying* because Mr Sperber has £50,000 on deposit and is still paying interest on his overdraft.

As the amount of money circulating rises Mr Sperber siphons some off and then starts the last stage. He takes money out of the network banks. When the victim bank preents its cheques there is *no money to meet them*. The cheques are returned, and only then does the bank know how much it has lost.

From whom Sperber learnt *his skill is unknown but he* brought to cross-firing a mind capable of keeping abreast of complicated detail and considerable panache — one victim agreed to hold parcels of diamonds as collateral without ever checking *the parcels*.

In one fraud 33 different bank accounts were used. But over the years Sperber has been both bold and unlucky. He has been to prison only twice.

He was born in Vienna in 1918 but spent his youth in Cracow, Poland. Before the start of the last war he moved west to Belgium where, although Jewish, he survived the Nazis with the help, it is said, of a Belgian order of nuns. Thirty years later the nuns were still unwittingly protecting him in London.

In 1946 Sperber set up as a diamond dealer, living in Antwerp. Married in 1948, he was no longer resident in Belgium in the early 1950s and in 1954 his company went bankrupt. Nonetheless he appears to have continued as a dealer until 1956, when he is alleged to have defrauded a number of his *colleagues* by *disappearing* with diamonds on credit.

Two years later he was sentenced to two months imprisonment and the next year sentences of two and five years were passed on him in Antwerp. In the meantime Sperber had jumped bail.

He emerged again in 1964 in Italy where he was tried and acquitted for fraud, but he was extradited to Belgium to serve his sentences. In his defence yesterday it was said that the sentence in Belgium was reduced to three years and that he had been tried and cleared in Austria.

In 1969 he was sentenced to three years imprisonment in France but the sentence was passed in absentia. Sperber had disappeared again.

He was now to be found part of the time in Switzerlnd, where Swiss authorities believe he extracted £500,000 from a branch of the Banco de Bilbao. In 1971 the West Germans extradited him to Switzerland and early in 1972 he stood trial there. The Swiss are circumspect about what happened next but it appears Sperber walked out of court during and adjournment.

In 1974 a rumour spread round the Antwerp diamond dealers that Sperber had died in a car accident. His former wife, whom he had divorced in 1960, was among those who thought he was dead.

Banks in Rome and Milan discovered in 1976 that he was very much alive and a warrant was issued for his arrest after a fraud involving 1.8 billion lire, the equivalent of well over £1m. But he was *in London*, where a large commercial bank would like to talk to him about £477,000 which it is owed.

The next year he and a Belgian girlfriend were at a branch of the Amsterdam Rotterdam Bank, AMRO, in *Bergen-Op-Zoom*, just over the border from Belgium. That bank would like Mr Sperber to account for £365,000.

Three hundred yards up the road from the AMRO bank in Bergen is a branch of *the Algemene Bank Netherlands*, ABN. In 1979 the Belgian girlfriend opened an account there. Sperber was lucky because one of the staff was married to an official of he luckless AMRO branch, but no one made any *connexion*.

Mr Sperber might still be dropping in on Bergen today were it not for his nose for perfume. Among his varied commercial interests was an involvement with a perfume *company*.

In 1976 Charles Scott (Parfums) Ltd. a family firm in Finchampstead, Berkshire, asked the National Union Bank in London, a discount house set up to assist manufacturers facing cash flow problems, to help it finance trade. The mechanism by which NUB did this was to set up a sales company, Scott Parfums (Sales) Ltd, as an NUB subsidiary.

When a customer bought perfume, on credit, NUB through its subsidiary paid Charles Scott (Parfums), the manufacturer, 80 per cent of the bill, minus service and interest charges. Charles Scott (Parfums) would receive the remaining 20 per *cent when the customer paid* the bill.

In the summer of 1977 NUB was taken over and it was announced that the discounting business would end in the spring of 1978. The value of goods *discounted* for Charles Scott (Parfums) began to rise, mainly because of a new account with firms called Agrostis Import/Export Ltd and Texmay Finance Ltd. At first payments were made within the 90-day period for credit, but then the payments dried up.

Proceedings were taken against Agrostis and Texmay, who said they had never received the perfume. Police investigations concluded that *no perfume had ever been* destined for them. Arrests were made, and yesterday Maurice Thomas Wood, an accountant and director of Agrostis, was jailed for a year for his part in the £271,000 fraud.

But another man remained elusive. The guiding light behind Agrostis and Texmay was a Mr Georg Pratten, who was thought to live much of the time abroad.

Detective Sergeant John Mullally, *a member of the* fraud squad, set out to find him. Mr Mullally, a determined Ulsterman, began what was to prove a long game of hide and seek through the winter of 1979 into the spring and summer of 1980. Pratten, via his lawyers, offered to meet the policeman abroad and promised to keep appointments, but never appeared.

Pratten was known to favour the Waldorf Hotel in the Aldwych for business meals and meetings. Suspecting he might be on his way there, Mr Mullally called in undercover detectives from the Yard's criminal intelligence branch. Disguised as doormen, road sweepers, *passing pedestrians* and hotel visitors, they waited in vain. Pratten's second sense saved him and he did not appear.

Mr Mullally dogged the heels of a girlfriend of Pratten day and night for over two months, trailing her buses homeward without sign of Pratten. The policeman discovered her while investigating the firm where Mr Wood worked. She was on *the switchboard*.

In June, 1980, he was watching a flat used by her in north London when a green Mercedes Benz turned into the street.

As Pratten pulled up, the policeman ran down from his vantage point on a six-storey block of flats, jumped garden *fences and sprinted into the* road. Pratten, planning a lunch with the girl, was unlocking the boot of his car to take out a bottle of wine and some food, He found under arrest.

In his briefcase the policeman found signed blank cheques drawn on accounts under different names in London. The cheques were part of the fraud on the ABM bank, amounting to almost £400,000. At the same time the bank was being used in complex credit deals with a London jewellers, A. Byworth and Co. Jewelry was given to Pratten on approval for 30 days against post-dated cheques on London accounts.

When the moment came to *honour* the cheques others drawn on the Dutch bank would be substituted.Those would take time to clear and so extend the period of credit. The firm eventually lost £250,000, although Pratten later argued in court that the cheques would have been met. Mr Mullally discovered one reason why he had had difficulties tracking Pratten down. He was comfortably ensconced in a large house with an acre of grounds in Virginia Water, Surrey, deep *in the stockbroker belt*. The house had been bought for £54,000 cash in another name in 1978.

The garden had been landscaped, garages added and the interior stripped. *Antiques* filled the lower floor and upstairs in Prattens room 102 suits were neatly arranged in the wardrobe, graded from light to dark shades in each colour. Many of them came from an expensive tailor in Milan.

By the garage, Pratten's cars were lined up. The green Mercedes, a grey Rolls-Royce, a mauve Jaguar and an Alfetta which the Italian chauffeur said was his. Neighbours were told the cars were the *fruits* of *repossession* orders against Pratten's debtors. At the time of his arrest Pratten announced he was going abroad for a month or so.

The police discovered that to cover his tracks Pratten *had registered* the cars at the London convent of the *Missionary* Sisters, in Hampstead, the Belgian order said to have protected him during the last war. The convent was also used as a poste restante, an address for accounts.

A senior member of the staff told *The Times* that letters had been sent to the convent, which it had returned to the *Post Office*; others had been picked up by visitors. The sister in charge of the convent at the time had *since returned* to *Belgium and the current staff* knew nothing.

The police discovered that Pratten's Belgian girlfriend owned a flat worth £90,000 in north London. There was also a *bolt hole* for Pratten in Milan. Throughout the time Mr Mullally was searching for Pratten he had no idea of his real identity. When he was arrested the police had nothing more than a man with a West German identity card aged 52 and born in Munich. The criminal records office at Scotland Yard does not keep records for individuals beyond a certain age on the basis that they become too old for crime. Besides, he had never been convicted in Britain.

The West German computer at Weisbaden knew differently. Late at night an *excited German* voice told Mr Mullally: "You have an *international* delinquent." The "Pratten" indentity card was one which had been stolen.

But Sperber's luck was *not* totally exhausted. Last autumn he and two accomplices came before the Central *Criminal* Court charged with fraud against the second Dutch bank and the British jewelry firm. After listening to legal argument Judge Buzzard rules that the Dutch case was outside British jurisdiction although counsel for one of the defendants conceded that fraud had taken place.

The jewelry charge was *also dropped* because *it* was argued that the loss would have been accounted for had the police not stepped in and made their arrests, thus preventing international cheques from being met.

The judge's decision caused anger and frustration among the prosecutors. It has raised doubts about the feasibility of prosecuting international frauds in this country.

But Sperber was not free. He remained in the maximum security wing of Wormwood Scrubs, supplied with meals brought from his Surrey home, and began trial before Christmas on the perfume fraud. Mr Mullally, who suffered a heart attack during the complex investigations, gave evidence for 14 days.

Sperber chose to make a statement from the dock. For three days he brought to play yet again his considerable charm. A slightly rumpled figure with a mane of white hair, he was the image of the *benign Dutch uncle*.

At the end of one afternoon in the 13 week trial he looked up at the judge and in the manner of a barrister suggested that "perhaps this would be a good point to adjourn for the day my lord". The judge agreed.

Today, at the end of a trial costing more than £250,000, Pratten knows as he begins his sentence that he may *need that blend of presence* and impertinence again. The Italian authorities are planning extradition proceedings and the Dutch are also considering action.

Sperber is believed to own properties in France and elsewhere. The police also suspect there may be anonymous bank accounts in Switzerland. There is an arrest warrant out in Antwerp for his Belgian girlfriend.

The future of Little Stream, now worth £160,000, has not been settled. A few days after Pratten's arrest notice was given that it had *been bought on a loan from* West Germany.

In Sperber's room resting on the leather-bound blotting pad given by Rolls-Royce to its customers is an antique American hunting knife used by prospectors in California. On the blade is inscribed: " dig gold out of quartz". Sperber's motto, perhaps?

Russians invite Chinese to border talks

Moscow, Feb 23. — The Soviet Government has proposed a resumption of talks with China on the two countries long-standing border dispute, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said today.

The spokesman said the Soviet Union had approached the Chinese Government with a proposal to discuss the border issue; but he emphasized that Moscow did not intend to discuss what he described as "territorial questions".

The two countries last met in 1978 in Peking to discuss the dispute, which led to bloody border clashes 13 years ago and has provoked deep bitterness in both Peking and Moscow.

China claims 600,000 square miles of Soviet territory; but Moscow rejects the claim and publicly insists that talks should deal only with border protocol.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman did not say how or when the latest approach was made; but Soviet sources in Peking said today that the Kremlin informed the Chinese Government of its readiness for talks on February 1.

Western diplomats in Moscow said the Soviet move seemed timed to coincide with strains between Peking and Washington over the United States' recent sale of advanced fighter aircraft to Taiwan.

The Soviet Government is deeply concerned by the increase in Sino-American economic, political and military cooperation and is eager to settle its differences with China, the diplomats said.

Mr Nikolai Tikhonov, the Soviet Prime Minister, hinted at a softening of Moscow's attitude last week when he said that the Kremlin "would not be kept from taking concrete steps" towards improving Sino-Soviet relations. However, the process of improvement, he told a group of Japanese journalists, must not be one-sided.

Marshal Dmitry Ustinov, the Defence Minister, echoed Mr Tikhonov's line in an article published in *Pravda* today.

Marshal Ustinov refrained from making any of the customary Soviet charges of aggression against China and limited himself to warning Peking that its policies could only help Washington's aggressive preparations.

Peking and Moscow have held 15 rounds of border talks since the 1960s when the two Governments, formerly close allies, became involved in a fierce ideological dispute.

Moscow's last formal proposal to resume the talks, made six months ago, was rejected by the Peking leadership.

China has cited the Soviet military presence in Afghanistan beside other international and ideological issues as hindrances toward the reestablishment of normal relations.—Reuter.

Britain presses chemical arms ban despite US

By Our Foreign Staff

Britain yesterday tabled proposals aimed at making sure that countries comply with any international ban on chemical weapons. The move was made in the 40-nation United Nations Disarmament Committee in Geneva.

The British recommendations include the setting up of an international consultative committee to carry out on-site inspections and to seal up weapon production plants within six months of the convention coming into force.

Asked how this initiative tallied with the recent American decision to manufacture new nerve gas weapons, the Foreign Office in London later said ti appreciated the position of the United States, which was attempting to counterbalance the large Soviet stockpile of chemical weapons.

At the same time, the British Government thought it important to continue to press for an international convention to outlaw these weapons. Britain destroyed its stocks of chemica weapons many years ago, and does not plan to build them up again.

Mr David Summerhayes, the British delegate in Geneva, underlined the need for adequate verification through every stage of compliance with a treaty, starting with the declaration and destruction of stockpiles and production facilities.

He said that international supervision would have to be supplemented by satellite surveys to trace any chemicals of known military significance.

On-site investigation by the consultative committee — composed of representatives of each state party to the convention — would be required in doubtful circumstances. Plants would be monitored until disposed of or converted within 10 years of a country's adhering to a treaty.

IRAN URGED TO END TORTURE

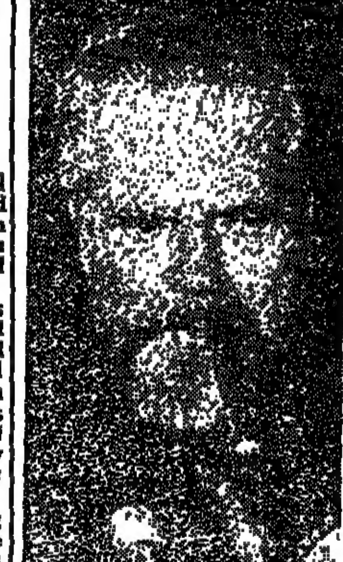
By David Cross

Amnesty International announced today that it had appealed to the Iranian leadership for a public ban on the torture of political prisoners.

In its appeal, the rights organization said that it had received hundreds of detailed reports of torture inflicted by revolutionary guards in Iranian jails. Some prisoners had died under torture and then been hanged, apparently to make it appear that they had been legally executed.

Amnesty said that during 1981 it had received more than 200 detailed statements of cases involving torture, some of them backed by photographs and medical reports. They included descriptions of special torture rooms in Evin prison in Tehran, where prisoners were burned with irons and cigarettes, beaten, kicked, whipped and subjected to mock executions.

The tortures were similar to abuses perpetrated under the Shah before the 1979 revolution, Amnesty said.



France honours Orson Welles

Orson Welles, the film producer, director and actor, facing the press at an hotel in Paris. He was in the city to be awarded the Medal of Honour by President Mitterrand at a ceremony yesterday.



Poland: Sanctions; Jarruzelski visit

EEC to curb Soviet imports

By Our Foreign Staff

EEC foreign ministers meeting in Brussels yesterday agreed to send to the Soviet Union "a clear political signal" of displeasure about events in Poland. It will comprise a curb on what has been calculated as about 2 per cent of total Soviet imports into the Community.

It can only be sent subject to reservations by Greece and Denmark. Greece has already made it clear that it will not be associated with sanctions against the Soviet Union and Denmark has said it finds it legally hard to accept that Greece should be exempted from any supposedly joint EEC measures.

It has therefore been left to the European Commision to find a compromise, one idea for which is that restrictions should be imposed only on goods not bought by Greece.

The Commission proposals are expected to be ready in the next few days. Yesterday's meeting approved the restrictions in principle.

A ban will be limited to manufactured products and luxury goods. According to Italian figures these total about £320m a year. A French proposal that the ban should amount to half this figure would mean cutting Soviet imports by roughly 2 per cent.

There was no discussion in the Council about latest developments in Poland, the aim being merely to agree on a signal which would, in the words of Lord Carrington, the British Foreign Secretary, show that "this is what happens if you do this sort of thing and if you do it again it will be worse".

The Council also agreed to send humanitarian aid worth £4.5m to Poland for distribution through charitable organizations.

Part of the session was given over to a discussion on progress towards what would amount to a new charter of European unity. Known so far as the European Act, it was originally suggested jointly by West Germany and Italy and has been discussed by a small group of Community diplomats over the past few weeks. They are now to report again on the idea by May 24.

☐ **Tokyo:** The Japanese Government yesterday announced that it will take steps to impose sanctions against the Soviet Union and Poland.

Mr Kiichi Miyazawa, the chief Cabinet Secretary, said the Government would refuse to reschedule Polish debts or lend more money "for the time being because the Government recognizes that the unity and cooperation of the Western nations are of utmost importance in coping with the Polish question".

Mr Miyazawa said the sanctions would not be applied to any economic assistance already committed to Poland.

In terms of the measures, which were described as half-hearted by Western diplomats, Japan will also, among other things, suspend trade consultations with the Soviet Union an shelve Moscow's request for the enlargement of its trade office in Tokyo.

☐ **Madrid:** Poland countered criticism at the European security review conference yesterday with charges that Britain used torture in Northern Ireland, diplomatic sources said.

The Sub-Director of Foreign Affairs, Mr Wodzinierz Konarski, asked how Britain would react if other countries insisted on dialogue between authorities in Ulster and representatives of the Roman Catholic Church, Protestant leaders and the IRA.

☐ **Paris:** Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, said in an interview with *Le Monde* newspaper yesterday that the world economic crisis constituted a danger at least as great as tension between the super powers and the "Polish tragedy".

"Unemployment in the northern hemisphere and famine in the southern one lead to a social and political destabilization which enhances communist influence and other destabilizing factors."

☐ **Geneva:** Calling for a world religious summit for peace, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, yesterday described events in Iran and Poland as "eruptions of a religious power which can never be suppressed no matter how much it is denied, but which needs to be channelled and informed by the exercise of reason".

☐ **Brussels:** Belgium has announced sanctions against Poland and the Soviet Union, in line with the undertakings it gave with other Nato and EEC countries.

They include a suspension of exchange visits between ministers and senior officials and restrictions on visas for Soviet diplomats.

Talks on re-scheduling Polish debts are to be suspended, a Belgian-Polish commission is being adjourned and there will be restrictions on visas for business staff.

☐ **London:** The British Government yesterday eased restrictions on the movement of Polish diplomats in Britain to bring them into line with those applied to British diplomats in Poland. The British restrictions were imposed earlier this month.

Previously permission had been given only in exceptional circumstances.

The relaxation does not apply to Polish journalists, the staff of the Lot airline, nor the Gdynia America shipping line.

Moscow gives nod of approval

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw, Feb 23

The Soviet Union has given General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the Polish leader, a discreet vote of confidence by inviting him to Moscow next week.

That is the view of diplomatic analysts here who point out that the announcement of the visit comes only days before the Polish Communist Party's Central Committee holds a plenary session during which the general is expected to come under some criticism for his relatively moderate policies.

But by stipulating that the Moscow visit will take place in the first week of March, the Soviet Union is clearly signalling its belief that General Jaruzelski will retain his position as party chief. Party hardliners — pro-Soviet, Marxist fundamentalists — have been gathering strength since the declaration of martial law and have been expressing, in oblique ways, varying degrees of impatience.

The declaration of martial law raised expectations among Polands hardline Communists that have never been fulfilled. The common assumption has been that the Soviet Union sympathized with these feelings.

Having agreed to - or orchestrated, in the view of the United States — military takeover Moscow must be frustrated with the results. The party has still not regrouped and still not healed its wounds; the economy has if anything deteriorated and leaders of Solidarity, the independent trade union movement, though jailed, still seem to have an emotional sway over many sectors of Polish society.

A sign of this frustration is Soviet pressure on the Poles to drive a wedge between the Roman Catholic Church and Solidarity, though it seems merely to have resulted in a propaganda attack on churchmen visiting internment camps.

Martial law has, however, achieved two goals in the Soviet interest: it has ended strikes and the constant challlenging of the party and it has brought the Polish Government much more firmly into the Soviet orbit.

Trybuna Ludu, the party organ, today said. "We must orientate our foreign cooperation ties, and more strongly than so far, towards the fraternal countries of the CMEA (Comecon, the economic grouping), the Soviet Union, the friends who take a vital and honest interest in the normalization of life in our country."

The Soviet Union thus appears to be more or less satisfied with those two limited achievements since martial law. It is not, above all, in the Soviet interest to see General Jaruzelski lose control, even to an avowed hardliner like Mr Stefan Olszowski.

Having sanctioned the state of affairs in Poland, it must now see it through: General Jaruzelski who is also Prime Minister, head of the military council and Minister of Defence will only cede his leadership of the party when martial law ends.

These judgments are drawn largely from party sources who are inclined towards the liberal reformist wing and therefore may contain a certain amount of wishful thinking. But the verdict seems to be correct: the hardliners are making more noise than they have genuine influence, at least within the Central Committee.

☐ Mr Lech Walesa, the interned leader of Solidarity, today quashed speculation that the baptism of his baby daughter would be turned into some form of public spectacle, (Reuter reports).

Reports published in the West have suggested that he might be set free for the baptism and that the Polish primate, Archbishop Jozef Glemp would officiate, thus turning the ceremony into what would amount to a political event.

Today, Father Henryk Jankowski, Mr Walesa's parish priest, said the Walesas wanted the baptism to be a private family affair.

Leading article, page 11

Sinai withdrawal

Egyptian sea cannon show who rules the waves

From Christopher Walker, Sharm el Sheikh

In addition to two air bases, the airfield used to launch the Entebbe raid, hundreds of miles of new roads, modern hotels, diving schools, restaurants and air-conditioned flats, the Egyptians will be receiving two of their own pre-Second World War guns when they regain the remaining one third of occupied Sinai on April 26.

The British-made sea cannon, over 20 ft long and with barrels clearly engraved with the insignia of George V, still sit symbolically, if impotently, astride the concrete emplacements which command the narrow Strait of Tiran, 400 yards of the Red Sea which are vital to the security of Israeli shipping to and from Asia and East Africa.

Now useful only as a museum pieces, the guns have been deliberately left where they were abandoned by the Egyptians in 1956 as a reminder to any visitor of the importance of the area for Israel. A metal sign explains that attempted Egyptian blockades of the waterway have sparked two Middle East wars.

More than any amount of government propaganda, the position of the guns and the narrowness of the strait (used for importing much of Israel's oil) are a reminder of what Israel has sacrificed for peace with her largest Arab neighbour.

Directly opposite the grey barrels of the cannon is the island of Tiran and next to it, Sinafir Island, which is infested with snakes and has no water resources. The two forbidding and uninhabited islands — scarcely talked about at the time of Camp David — have recently emerged as two of the most controversial areas in the delicate next stage of the peace process.

Under the terms of the 1979 treaty, Israel is due to hand them back to Egypt, along with the remaining 12,000 square miles of the occupied Sinai peninsula. Security in zone C, the part of the treaty in which the islands are clearly designated is the responsibility of the American-organized Sinai multinational peace-keeping force, which is due to begin operations in March.

Controversy over the remote islands was sparked when Prince Fahd of Saudi Arabia — which leased the two islands to Egypt in the 1950s to facilitate the blockade of the Tiran Strait — was quoted as telling Saudi university students that the Egyptian government was responsible for returning them "to the mother country". The claim fuelled growing anxiety in Israel about the future of the islands after the final withdrawal.

In recent talks in Cairo, Israel's forceful defence minister, the former general Ariel Sharon, agreed to accept Egyptian assurances about the islands; which will be patrolled by Egyptian civilian police after April 26 and also come under supervision from the Sinai force.

Probably no by coincidence, one of the two bases for the new force is now being built on a barren clifftop looking straight over the sparkling water to the rocky shores of Tiran Island. Working against the clock, a force of 250 men, more than half of them imported labour from Thailand, is struggling to complete the camp in time for the arrival of the first infantry soldiers.

Though the new force is intended to be multinational, there seems little doubt that its predominant character will be American (one reason why the Reagan administration was so anxious for even minimal European participation). As I was driven around the 150-acre site last week by Bob Jaggard, the resident US Army corps engineer, there was every sign that it would soon be taking on the feel of what one worker described as "little America".



Mr Jaggard, from Silverspring, Maryland, described the construction problems caused by the long-running indecision about the participation of British, French, West German and Dutch contingents to join those of The United States, Fiji, Uruguay and Colombia.

With little prospect being held out of the Egyptians of managing to maintain the tourist trade brought to the area under Israeli occupation, attention is being paid to providing maximum recreation facilities for the troops who will be stationed in one of the most isolated corners of the Middle East.

As Mr Jaggard outlined the costly facilities being provided, four Israeli warplanes swooped low past the spectacular backdrop of the purple Sinai mountains. They provided a loud reminder of one of the other strategic prices Israel will be paying in April: the loss of valuable airspace for training its pilots.

Official Israeli sources also cite the loss of strategic depth on land, the handover of the Eitam and Etzion air bases — two of the most modern in the world — and military control over the strategic northern Sinai region as other strategic assets soon to be forfeited. All are considered subsidiary in importance to control over the Tiran waterway.

In hard financial terms, Israel is giving up an investment of some $17,000m (about £8,900m) in the Sinai, only a fraction of which will either be paid in compensation by Egypt or can be salvaged as part of Operation Ramon, the code word for the military pull-back which has now been underway since 1979.

According to official figures supplied to *The Times*, the Israeli infrastructure breaks down as $10,000m for airfields, bases and facilities (which will be handed over minus secret installations which will be destroyed); $5,000m for oilfields already returned to the Egyptians and $2,000m for roads and settlements.

He said: "By withdrawing from Sinai, the Israel defence force has shortened its line of supply. It has rearrayed its forces in the Negev and other parts of Israel from where they can be quickly and easily concentrated against a threat from either direction. It has eliminated the call-up of reserves, paralysing the economy every time there is an emergency".

The article, specifically aimed at the growing lobby against the April withdrawal, pointed out that no Israeli military figure of any stature had opposed the peace treaty on strategic or tactical grounds. It concluded: "The return of the Sinai is not happening in a vacuum. The return of the area is being made in a political context and under security guarantees. A violation of either the political process or the guarantees will place Israel in a better military position than before".

Hama battle confirmed by Syrians

From Robert Fisk Beirut, Feb 23

The Syrian Government today issued its first official statement on the fighting in the city of Hama, confirming widespread killing and destruction there.

The government report — issued after accusations that the Western press, including *The Times*, had fabricated and exaggerated the extent of violence in Hama — spoke of "firing mosques and streets ... the liquidation of whole families".

The account was contained in a telegram of support to President Assad of Syria by the Baath Party branch in Hama which blamed the extremist Muslim Brotherhood for the fighting.

It said that "the black wrath against the people began with firing from mosques and streets on the houses of residents, killing randomly anyone walking in the streets and liquidating whole families, including men, women and children and killing brutally all those who did not open their doors to become nests of treason."

According to the account, Baath Party members were shot while they were asleep in bed. When the party's "security apparatus" attempted to bring violence under control, the Brotherhood retaliated by "pillaging stores and murdering doctors and lawyers and religious men. For this our comrades struck with the power of justice and the criminal tide was stopped at the early stage of the plot

Shamir fails to close the gap

Cairo, Feb 23. — Israel and Egypt still face wide divergences on the content and the scope of a proposed declaration of principles on Palestinian autonomy, official Egyptian sources said in Cairo.

Commenting on the first round of talks between Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the visiting Israeli Foreign Minister, and Mr Kamal Hassan Ali, his Egyptian counterpart, the sources said that for Egypt, such a declaration must be "acceptable to the Palestinians and to Jordan".

For Israel, the priority was a five-year transition period to precede autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza.

Letter from Amman

Jordanians count their economic blessings

Amman shows strikingly the impact of money from the Gulf which would have poured into Lebanon, were it not for the continual strife there. Twenty years or so ago it still consisted principally of one long, main street along a narrow valley with buildings thrusting up the slopes to embryonic suburbs. A rough and noisy hill-country capital with about 200,000 inhabitants and a strong dash of Bedouin insouciance, it was often the butt of unflattering comparisons with Beirut and Damascus.

Today, the burgeoning "greater Amman", reaching out across the seven hills to assimilate towns such as Suweleh, seven miles to the north-west, has 1.2 million people. This is almost half Jordan's total population, of whom at least 50 per cent are Palestinians driven over from the West Bank by the 1948 and 1967 wars.

"This is about the best place to be in the Middle East at present," said a Palestinian surgeon who has tried most of the alternatives.

The original city centre, spruced up a bit but essentially unchanged, and its adjoining *souks* are now dominated by new areas with luxury, shops, restaurants, supermarkets and towering international hotels along the crests of the hills, all given a measure of redeeming grace by mandatory use of the honey-tinged local stone as facing on outside walls. Muggings are unknown, women shop at night unaccompanied and more of them, are to be seen driving cars — even large estate cars — than in Cairo or Baghdad.

As one of the oldest continuously inhabited places on earth - it was the Philadelphia of the Greeks and Romans - Amman has known many a heyday but never before such manifest affluence. "That," said the taxi driver, indicating a palace-like structure with gardens being landscaped around it, "is the new villa of a Palestinian who has become rich in Saudi Arabia. Ten bedrooms and a swimming pool."

By no means the only one. Lesser dwellings, often still sumptuous by Europe's standards, have sprouted all over open country where land can now cost twice as much as in London. Ostentation being important, the roofs of some mansions are surmounted by massive imitations of the Eiffel Tower, bearing sundry antennas for radio and television.

Because of inadequate refuse collection, huge tracts of hilly land still untouched by bulldozers are strewn with wisp of nylon wrappings and plastic bottles with spring daisies and thistles pushing up between them.

Also tailing far behind the urban expansion is the municipal sewage system, inaugerated within the past decade to replace the ubiquitous septic tanks. It is, however, now reaching the Jebel Husain (25,000) and Wahdat (34,000) refugee camps — or, more accurately, quarters — which, although still administered by Unrwa, (the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees) have long since become integrated into the city itself.

As lack of proper sanitation is responsible for flies in summer and eye and intestinal infections, especially among children, such improvements help to reduce the social imbalance. King Husain's Government seems, in fact, to apply the maxim that man may tolerate the spectacle of much wealth provided he is not simultaneously subjected to extreme poverty.

No matter how overcrowded the camps, their miseries have been alleviated for many families by acquisitions such as refrigerators, stoves and television, evidence of four years of full employment in Jordan and remittances from grown-up children working in the Gulf. So tight is the labour market that, in spite of the diplomatic breach since Camp David, the Government maintains an open-door policy towards Egyptians, here in their many thousands and often eager to work under conditions unacceptable to any self-respecting refugee. Contractors also bring in South Koreans, Filipinos, Indians and Pakistanis. For Jordanians — all refugees are nationals — minimum daily pay in the building trade is 5 Jordanian dinars, almost £8.

Alan McGregor

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Police chief shot dead in Naples

Naples. — Two unidentified men shot dead Police Marshal Antonio Salzano, aged 52, at his house, and officials said the murder might be connected with a courtroom shooting here yesterday.

An anonymous caller telephoned a newspaper to say that Signor Salzano, a senior officer, had been murdered "because he supplied the arms for the courtroom shooting."

One detainee was shot dead and two others were seriously injured when a fourth prisoner attacked them in a court anteroom — the latest blow in an internecine war for control of the Camorra, the Naples Mafia.

Signor Salzano's duties included supervising the transport of prisoners between the city's Poggioreale prison and the court.

Bomb claim by monarchists

Tehran. — An Iranian monarchist group has claimed to have planted a bomb in a refuse van which went off outside the Vali'Asr barracks killing 11 people and injuring 11 on Monday. "We planted the bomb", a telephone caller told the Agence France-Presse bureau in Tehran speaking for the Pars Monarchist Group.

Monday was the anniversary of the accession to the throne of Reza Khan, father of the last Shah.

Israeli show called off

New York. — The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York has called off a planned Israeli archaeological exhibition, because many of the pieces come from "disputed territories," Mr Philip de Montebello, the curator, said.

Most of the pieces chosen by him came from the old Rockefeller Museum on the occupied West Bank. It would be taking a "de facto stand" by showing this material as "the heritage of the state of Israel", Mr de Montebello added.

Gaddafi tries to end rift



Bourguiba Gaddafi

Tunis. — Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, arrived in Tunisia to try to normalize bilateral relations, strained since an abortive merger attempt between the two countries in 1974.

The merger failed after President Habib Bourguiba of Tunisia reneged on the agreement shortly after signing it, stating that he had been misled. The two leaders will be meeting for the first time in eight years.

High turnout in Greenland poll

Copenhagen.—Early returns showed an exceptionally high turnout in Greenland's referendum on continued membership of the EEC. A narrow majority is expected to lead to the territory's withdrawal from the Community in 1984 (Christopher Follett writes).

Greenlanders, who have home rule under the Danish crown want closer ties with other North American Eskimo communities and resent the jurisidiction of European bureaucracy over — in particular — their offshore fishing zones. This is despite the fact that Greenland has prospered greatly within the EEC, receiving 645m Kroner (£43m) in EEC aid since joining in 1973.

CORRECTION

The report from New York yesterday on lung cancer should have said that cigar and pipe smoking were causal, not casual, factors in cancer deaths.

Carrington plea for patience on EEC budget

From Ian Murray, Brussels, Feb 23

"Patience, tenacity and tolerance" are the essential qualities requered in European statesmen in trying to settle the vexed question of Britain's budget contrubution to the EEC, Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, said tonight.

Speaking in Hamburg on the state of the Community, he showed that Britain had not budged from its argument that more money had to be available for policies other than agriculture.

In talks earlier in Brussels with the other EEC foreign ministers, however, he found that opposition to the British standpoint was still very strong. It was agreed that a full day should be set aside at the next Foreign Council on March 23 to discuss the issue and that before then a report should be jointly prepared by the European Commission and the Council on the subject. But even that decision was a grudging one.

The foreign ministers are due to report on the matter to the European summit at the end of next month, but Italy today suggested that there really was no point in even bringing the subject up before the heads of government then. That is clearly impossible, but it proves the reluctance among Britain's partners to talk about so disruptive a Community subject.

Lord Carringto hopes that it will be possible for the meeting on March 23 to discuss "illustrative figures" on how much money is involved so that the argument can be brought out into the open. He suggested that the whole matter could even be settled then, although his speech in Hamburg showed that he really did not envisage such a quick solution.

The report for study at the next meeting will be prepared by Mr Gaston Thorn, the President of the European Commission, and by Mr Leo Tindemans, the Belgian Foreign Minister, who is the current president of the Council.

Mr Tindemans said after today's meeting that he was neither optimistic nor pessimistic about being able to find a solution, although he hoped agreement might be possible at the next Council. "The will is present to avoid a major crisis in the Community," he said.

In an article published in the *Hamburger Abendblatt* to coincide with his visit there, Lord Carrington hinted that finding a solution would not be easy for Britain any more than for other countries. "It is bound to be a difficult and painful process before interests are reconciled and solutions found," he wrote.

In both the article and the speech he emphasized that West Germany was in the same difficulties as Britain in fighting for a fair budget contribution, making it obvious that support from Bonn is seen as a vital factor in obtaining the kind of concessions which Britain wants.

☐ Lord Carrington reacted tersely to reports that Mr Alexander Haig, the United States secretary of state, had called him a "duplicitious bastard" (AP reports).

It was Lord Carrington's first direct reaction to remarks Mr Haig was reported to have made to staff members during a freewheeling private discussion last October.

"I'm only thankful that I do not have people like that around me who tell tales, or whatever it was", Lord Carrington told reporters.

He declined to elaborate, beyond saying he was talking about Mr Haig's staff, the apparent source of the leak.

According to the report, Mr Haig made the remark during a discussion of British policy towards Israel and Arab countries. Spokesmen for both officials have asserted that Lord Carrington and Mr Haig have an excellent relationship

Uganda violence

Knowledge of death at the point of a gun

In this report on Uganda, Bernard Debusmann, a Reuter correspondent recently in Kampala, explains the roots of violence in the country.

The attack by guerrillas on a Kampala army barracks is the latest incident in a city where many forms of violence are commonplace.

"The moral fabric of our society has been torn apart", Mr Patrice Masette Kuuya, Uganda's Minister of Rehabilitation, said in a recent interview. "The Amin years and the war changed mental attitudes, made people callous.

"Take someone who is 16 years old now. He hardly knew any decent living. He knew death and he knew guns, and we have lots of guns in this country."

The climate of insecurity is only one of the problems the Government has to solve to return Uganda to its former prosperity. According to government figures, Uganda has more university graduates than Kenya and Tanzania put together. But many fled the rule of the gun and live abroad.

The picture is not all bleak. Western economists say that the Government's economic measures of last year have begun to take hold. A recovery package, drawn up in consultation with advisers from the International Monetary Fund, last year "floated" the Ugandan shilling, sharply raised producer prices for key commodities (the price for coffee was quadrupled), and lifted price controls.

The Government expects Uganda to be self-sufficient in food, as it was until 1971, by the middle of the year.

In a gesture of confidence, West Germany and Britain wiped out Uganda's debts, the EEC increased its aid, and the IMF provided $179m (about £90m) to speed the country's recovery.

Meanwhile, the government of Uganda, a country which has been a killing-ground for the past decade, is trying to make a disciplined, army out of the gunmen in uniform who helped to overthrow General Idi Amin in 1979.

Kampala residents say that, compared with a few months ago, there are few soldiers in the streets. Road-blocks are manned by police or a paramilitary unit called the Special Force.

This unit, now about 600 strong, is being trained by a three-man team from Falcon Star, a private British company composed of former members of the British armed forces.

Help in training the regular Army has come from Sudan, Tanzania and Kenya, according to Mr Peter Otai, Minister of State for Defence. The United States has offered eight places for officer training, which have been accepted.

Amin's murderous eight-year reign was ended by a 45,000-strong invasion force from Tanzania backed by a motley band of armed Ugandan exiles who had litle in common but scant military experience and the resolve to get rid of Amin.

This Army is now estimated at about 10,000 and has been blamed for much of the violence which has continued to rack Uganda since Amin lost power.

"We are trying to put into shape a young Army", said Mr Otai in an interview. "It is an Army which has to be converted from a liberation army into a proper professional army."

It is an uphill task, diplomats here say, because the armed forces now have a bad image. According to opponents of President Obote's Government, the Army and a ragged militia of about 5,000 have been responsible for a long list of brutalities rivalling, or even surpassing, those committed by Idi Amin's henchmen.

"Since the present Government came to power (in December 1980), thousands of Ugandans have been arrested and subjected to extensive torture", Mr Paul Semogerere, leader of the opposition Democratic Party said.

Yet, judging from the accounts of Ugandans and foreign diplomats, the situation in Uganda has been slowly improving, if only in terms of bad things happening less frequently than they used to.



Street terror: A man shouting for help as another lies maimed on the ground and (below) the pall of smoke

Car bombs kill 12 in Beirut

From Robert Fisk Beirut, Feb 23

By Beirut standards, it was a fairly routine bloodbath. The car bombers had judiciously chosen the most crowded street market in West Beirut and left their cargoes — two Peugeot saloons crammed with explosives — in a road jammed with traffic.

Raouche was once a fashionable corniche above the Mediterranean; but today it is a rundown, shabby highway of stalls, hucksters and lemonade stands, so the victims came from the poor of Lebanon's capital.

The death toll had reached only 12 by tonight, which is a modest casualty figure for Beirut's bombers. When the Iraqui Embassy blew up last December, 61 people were killed.

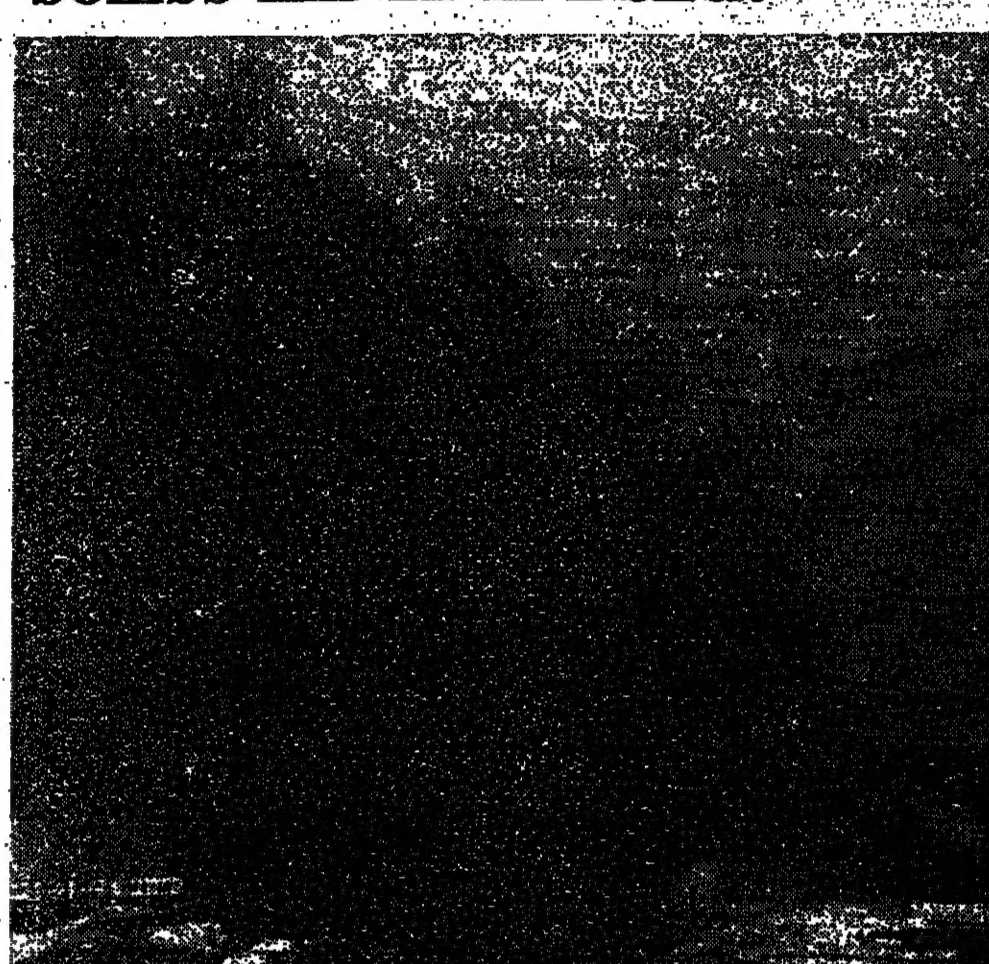
But today's little assault incinerated half a dozen stall holders and their customers and blasted tons of glass on to shoppers and passing motorists. The shock waves of the explosion could be felt — a gentle pressure on the chest — almost two miles away and there was no mistaking the coil of black smoke that drifted up over the sea.

For hours afterwards, blood lay splashed along a hundred yards of pavement and 16 charred cars lay smouldering beside the road.

The second bomb exploded 10 minutes after the first, when ambulance crews were already trying to save the wounded, and within an hour Beirut's telephone terrorists were in action.

The Front for the Liberation of Lebanon from Foreigners, which claimed responsibility for most of the bombings in the country in recent months, insisted that it had planted the car bombs. Then a hitherto unheard of organization of equally doubtful provenance, The Holy Struggle Movement, said that it was to blame.

No motives were claimed and none advanced, although the political effect of the bombs was the same as always, another fractional lessening of public confidence in the authorities.



Obscenities hurled at coup trial reporters

From Richard Wigg Madrid, Feb 23

Shouts of *Fuera mierda* ("Get out you shits") rang through the Madrid coup trial courtroom today as military observers and other spectators staged a noisy demonstration against Spanish and foreign journalists.

The first disruption in an emotional trial involved officers of the three services from all over Spain and families of the 32 officers accused of involvement in the attempted military takeover a year ago today.

It came after a three-hour delay as the accused refused to enter court until something was done about an article published this morning on the front page of the pro-Government Madrid daily *Diario 16*.

The article was published under the headline "How we assaulted Parliament", and purported to be an interview with one of the military policemen from the Brunete Armoured Division who entered Parliament.

The soldier, under an assumed name, alleged that Captain Carlos Alvarez Arenas turned to one of the policemen under his command as they entered the chamber declaring: "Whoever takes one step back, I will personally shoot him in the neck."

Señor Jesus Gomez, counsel for the captain, who face a seven-year sentence and dismissal from the Army, described the alleged interview as a "grave provocation to the court and interference with the course of justice". It was an ignominious and invented calumny of his client.

General José Claver Torrente, the military prosecutor, announced an investigation would be opened into the facts alleged in the interview, to establish responsibility on the grounds they constituted prima facie crime.

Lieutenant-General Fernando de Santiago, one of the military co-defenders of the accused, then harangued the court, his voice almost broken with anger. "What is published in *Diario 16* is a most grave insult not only to the honour of the accused but all the armed forces as an institution," he said. There was loud applause.

Lieutenant-General Luis Alvarez Rodrigues, president of the Supreme Council of Military Justice, then ordered Señor Pedro Ramirez, the editor of *Diario 16* who has been personally covering the proceedings, to leave court. The newspaper's accreditation was suspended

After the editor stood up and started to leave, other Spanish journalists accompanied him, followed after a pause by the foreign correspondents to the shouts of abuse and "Bravo!"

Señor Ramirez, who was called in twice over the interview by General Antonio Rodriguez, press chief at the Defence Ministry, as everyone waited for the proceedings to recommence, said afterwards he had been invited to withdraw volumtarily, but had refused. The article had been prepared "some time ago as a contribution to the anniversary of the coup attempt"

Atlanta murder trial man denies dumping body

From Neil Sutherland, Atlanta, Feb 23

Wayne Williams, who is accused of two of a number of murders committed here, denied throwing anything — let alone a body — off a bridge over the Chattahoochee River. The 23-year-old music producer seemed calm and confident today as he defended himself against allegations that he committed the two murders and had links with 10 other killings.

He told the packed courtroom: "I didn't throw anything off that bridge."

Mr Williams, who is slightly built, said he was not big enough to have lifted a dead body. "I haven't ever tried to lift 140 lb. I doubt if I could."

He said he was in the area about 2 am on May 22 when police on watch claim they heard a splash, such as a body falling into the water. He said he was there because he was trying to find the home of a woman he was supposed to meet for a musical audition.

"I wanted to find it when I wasn't caught up in rush-hour traffic." When he was unable to find the address he started for home, but was stopped by police some distance from the bridge.

Mr Williams said he drove over the bridge without stopping, but stopped to use a telephone after he had crossed it.

When police stopped him and said they knew he had thrown a body into the river, Mr Williams said he replied: "You must be crazy."

He denied that he was a "media freak" who delighted in the publicity that surrounded his arrest and even gave a press conference. Speaking of his feelings about reporters who surrounded his home at the time of the arrest, he said: "As far as I was concerned, they could all go and jump in the river."

He said he spoke to the press to try to put his side of the story and in reaction to constant police surveillance and trailing, which was "just ridiculous".

BRITON IN COMPUTER BAN CASE

From Our Own Correspondent

New York, Feb 23

An Englishman has been indicted on 30 counts of selling restricted high technology equipment to Poland, Romania and Bulgaria.

Brian Moller-Butcher, from Camberley, Surrey, owner of MES Equipment Inc. in Boston, denied the allegations before a district court there.

The charges are the first of their kind since October when President Reagan ordered that no American high technology should be sold to the Soviet bloc.

Mr Ed Kitritch, a spokesman for the United States Customs Service in Washington, said today that the enforcement operation, known as Exodus, involved teams of customs agents, inspectors, patrol officers, import specialists and accountants in 10 cities.

The federal indictment against the men says they exported equipment that was "controlled for national security reasons".

Black activist's son is murdered in Harlem

From Christopher Thomas, New York, Feb 23

Another son of Mr Roy Innis, the black civil rights activist, has been murdered. He was shot twice in the chest in Harlem after an apparent robbery on Saturday and stripped of all identification.

The police confirmed that they had identified Mr Alexander Innis, who was 26, by fingerprints. In 1969 his brother Roy, aged 13, was shot dead by a man who fired into a crowd in the Bronx. Another brother, Kwame, aged 14, was injured in November when a gang stabbed him in the back outside the family home in Harlem.

Their father, executive director of the Congress of Racial Equality, today called for the creation of a non-racial citizens' organization to fight street crime. He had earlier identified his son at a city morgue.

The police in Harlem said today that witnesses to the attack were uncooperative, providing only sketchy details, but there was an unconfirmed report that Alexander was involved in a dispute with three people, one of whom shot him.

His absence from home since Saturday had not been regarded as unusual by his family. Mr Wendall Garnett, a senior official of the congress, said: "Alexander was a grown man who was pretty much on his own.

Alexander had been working as a driver for a delivery service and was a keen amateur boxer with hopes of becoming a professional. He had worked with his father's organization and in the 1970s headed its youth patrol, which helped the elderly and fought crime.

His father, who has headed the congress since 1968, is frequently criticized for his domination of the organization. He has five surviving sons and two daughters. Last year he faced charges of having with other executives of the organization, misappropriated $500,000 (£260,000) of the group's funds in 1976-77.

Four cities, four crises, 2: Glasgow ● housing

Home is where the Hell is

Glasgow City Chambers belie the image of a crumbling city. The building is on the grand Victorian scale, braced by marble and an air of great opulence that would give polish to the dullest councillor and authority to the most banal council minute. High, elegantly-decorated ceilings and sweeping stairways tell that the city forefathers were men of wealth and weighty reputation who made "Clyde-built" into a synonym for robust, high quality engineering and who supplied the world with ships and steam engines.

It does not appear to be the civic centre of a city with some of the worst social problems in Western Europe, that spends millions each year repairing the work of vandals or handling the problems caused by unemployment, violence, drink, urban deprivation and a huge civic debt. The chambers are a memory of Glasgow as it was, the workshop of the British Empire. Beyond the city centre with its many handsome buildings and out in the wastelands of Springburn, Maryhill and the soulless peripheral housing estates at Drumchapel and Easterhouse, or the sprawl of dead dockland, the trouble is clear to see.

It is the scale of Glasgow's housing crisis that is so daunting. All industrial cities with a similar history of prewar greatness share the problem but rarely on such a scale, and decent housing is recognized as the important key to improvement. One estate alone contains more people than the city of Perth and Glasgow is ringed by such estates; barrack blocks of flats threaded by narrow roads and separated by bleak open space.

They are places of despair where unemployment can reach 50 per cent, where families run to three generations without a member finding a job and where any form of extremism may take root. Rent arrears run to more than £4m a year, half the council tenants receive some form of state help and Glasgow has more council tenants than any city in Britain. Two thirds of the housing stock is council-owned, a reflection of the city's socialist background which has helped substantially towards creating a civic debt approaching £1,000m.

Against this the city has shrunk in size dramatically. Glasgow in recent years had a population of more than a million but by decanting people to the New Towns of west Scotland and through natural emigration, the population now stands at 762,000. The fault for the upheaval and the social destruction that followed may be shared by the private and public sectors. Glasgow's industrialists frankly failed to respond to change and, when the world no longer needed the ships and machines they could produce, many famous names sank into liquidation.

New techniques required fewer workers yet Glaswegians, who paradoxically are renowned for exporting their skills all over the world, were relucant to move even a few miles down the Clyde to find work. The post-war housing crisis demanded an urgent solution and so the "instant" schemes, which had no thought for social amenity, rose on the edge of the city, isolating large numbers of Glaswegians with no sense of community.

It is the elements of industrial depression, unwillingness to work elsewhere and a legacy of bad housing policy that have weighed heavily against present-day Glasgow. It is not an image that the city councillors enjoy. The contraction of the city has meant less rates revenue from industry and the Labour leadership despairs at the government measures that do not allow the council to increase their rates income while at the same time rate support grant to the city is effectively cut.

The demand is strong for small manufacturing premises, successors perhaps to the traditional "railway arch" business in Glasgow. The Glasgow Eastern Area Renewal (Gear), now in its sixth year, is having a marked impression on one of the most derelict areas of the city. Gear had the daunting task of improving the largest area of multiple deprivation in western Europe.

It is a combined operation coordinated by the Scottish Development Agency and involving the district and regional councils, Scottish Special Housing Association, Glasgow Health Board, the Housing Corporation financing five housing associations involved and the Manpower Services Commission. From this impressive union of quangos and bureaucracies has come more than £120m spent to build or renovate 7,500 homes and 80,000 sq ft of factory space. Some 3,500 jobs have been generated in this 4,000-acre swathe of eastern Glasgow and the prospect is hopeful.

Some remain sceptical, pointing out that social renewal had not happened on the scale that was hoped for. There were too many retired people and unskilled workers together with the chronically sick. The middle class remained totally absent; no "gentrification" of the area had occurred. Shops and cinemas had closed for lack of support. Perhaps more of the area should be returned to landscaped open space, the Glasghu or "dear, green place" of the ancient Celts.

Gear officials accept the criticism but wonder if the memory of the "hell hole" the area was until recent years has faded too rapidly. They are hopeful of attracting a property-owning middle class into the area helped by the Strathclyde structure plan which has restricted the outward spread of private estates and obliged them to try the inner city, including the east end. Private developers are building 170 houses near Glasgow Green and similar development is happening in places around which the building societies historically drew a red line. So far about £12m has been committed in private housing schemes which Gear regards as the most positive proof that the east end albatross of ugly deprivation has flown away.

Mr Andrew Flockhart, the director of housing for Glasgow, took over the task three years ago of running the largest department of its kind in western Europe with multi-million pound assets equalling in value those of ICI. He sees the social revival of the inner city as a joint operation between public and private sectors. Since his arrival, and a more enlightened approach by the council, there have been distinct improvements in the shoddier parts of the city.


Brian Harris

Getting the past in perspective

Mrs Mary Brockett is a beneficiary of the battle to beat the housing crisis in East Glasgow, the largest area of multiple deprivation in Europe. She looks out of the window of her new one-bedroomed flat across the street to the "dear old dump with paper-thin walls" where she and her husband used to live. Her new home has been provided by the GEAR project which in six years has coordinated £120m in housing expenditure. The most important improvement is that she now has a lift: "when the block was first done up it was a bit up-market, but it's gone down recently and the old atmosphere's starting to come back."

Instead of flattening the old tenements and either leaving empty prairies of broken stone or a new growth in characterless concrete, the accent has been on renovation.

The council has released land for private sector development even on the most troubled council estates on an understanding that the developer renovates some of the derelict council property nearby. A "homesteading" scheme, through which the council made vandalized flats wind-proof and watertight and then sold them at a discount to first-time home buyers, has been very successful—even in places where it had been impossible to let the flats to council tenants.

"The homesteaders finished off the flats themselves and many of them are now little palaces. Cars are appearing outside some houses where there have not been cars for years. We know from experience that this kind of improvement can lift an area just as quickly as vandalism can bring it down", a council officer said.

Last year two banks provided £4.7m between them for home loans and one building society, underwritten by the council, provided mortgages for property in areas of the city that "did not normally attract building society finance".

Glasgow, in spite of its troubles, remains a brisk, raw and a dry-humoured place, with a distinct corporate personality. The Red Clydeside image may have been usurped for the moment by the councillors of Lothian on the Forth and it is significant that the city did not suffer the kind of riots that tore other places with a similar record of unemployment, urban decay and deprivation. Why Glasgow escaped has been the subject of much speculation. The answer probably lies in the wider tolerance of minority groups in the west of Scotland, probably because they are fewer, not concentrated in ghettos and because the police are closer to the community and generate less of the open hostility that appears south of the border.

Ronald Faux

An inventory of failure

The Glasgow housing estates are notoriously the worst in Britain. But there are similar examples on a smaller scale in Liverpool and Manchester, also in new towns such as Coventry and Corby—places where even the most persuasive of newly-elected Conservative ministers in those heady days after May 1979 would have found it difficult to get a single taker for his "sale of the century" of council dwellings to tenants. It is the kind of place where the right to buy will never be exercised.

The "social revolution" then talked about by Mr George Younger, the Scottish Secretary, and by Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, was the break up of the great slabs of single class municipal property that dominate whole cities and districts of cities. Ministers' enthusiasm has since waned; the pattern of tenure in the cities remains pretty much the same.

Until the 1981 Census of Population results are classified we have to infer that pattern from trends visible in the figures for 1961 and 1971. These, set out in table one, are explicit—a decline of private renting and the growth of both owner-occupation and council renting.

While over half of all households in England as a whole are in owner-occupation, in the English inner city areas only one household in six is owner-occupied. And in the inner areas of the cities the proportion of rented council housing is higher than nationally. There is also more private rented accommodation in the inner areas, a reflection of the kind of people who remain, the old, the poor, the ethnic, the single.

It is in the inner cities, too, that the nineteenth century catches up. Just over a quarter of England's housing was built before 1919. In the inner cities the proportion ranges between 40 per cent and 60 per cent—despite the scale of clearances when bulldozing was fashionable. Between 1975 and 1980 17,500 dwellings were demolished in Glasgow, 6,500 in Liverpool, nearly 10,000 in Manchester. Few councils do not now pay at least lip service to improvement and refurbishment of the existing stock of houses. However the latest figures, for 1977, show that in the inner city areas dwellings lacking at least one "amenity" (such as an inside toilet or hot running water) are appreciably greater in proportion than for dwellings of the same tenure elsewhere.

Later this year, provided ministers do not get cold feet about what will inevitably be interpreted as a call for more public expenditure, the Government will publish the latest survey of housing conditions (in England). This is likely to show absolute improvement in several of the gross indices of housing quality. But, worryingly, a marked rise in the proportion of houses in a state of serious disrepair will be revealed: in more modern houses built since 1919 and in the owner-occupied sector.

The survey will undoubtedly strengthen the arguments in favour of channelling public housing subsidies towards repair and maintenance of the existing housing stock. The problem of disrepair is not confined to the inner city; Outer estates too — have fallen into the vicious housin cycle than shows first when flats when flats get boarded up and remain empty for months and years.

A remark often overheard in and around Mr Michael Heseltine's entourage during his stay in Liverpool last July was about Toxteth housing: It isn't so bad after all". Toxteth's council housing indeed compares favourably with conditions elsewhere in the city. But it would be hard to exculpate housing as one of the factors behind the flare-up.

If tenants cannot or will not buy then the ground shifts to giving them more self management. No city housing issue is separate from the string of questions on the national housing agenda. They have been known since the housing Review undertaken by the last Labour Government; the present Government's Housing Act of 1980 has not made most of them any less pressing: how to justify a general housing subsidy to most households of all income levels either through rents or morgage tax relief; how to combine the autarchy of tenant self-control with the public responsibility of councils, including that of allocating housing to the truly needy; how to align the physical surplus of available dwellings over household numbers when no market mechanism works well and bureaucratic allocation policies are politically impossible.

David Walker

Next week: Coventry ● race

Housing Tenure %

	Owner occupied	Council rented	Private rented and housing association rented
MANCHESTER	36	47	17
GLASGOW	25	59	15
COVENTRY	65	22	11
SWANSEA	61	29	10

*Glasgow figures for 1980; last column includes Scottish Special Housing Association
Source: Census of Population, 1981; Glasgow district council

The Editor in Chief of Cosmopolitan wrote Sex and the Single Girl 20 years ago: this week British Cosmopolitan celebrates its 10th birthday

Love, work, and Helen Gurley Brown

"Love and work" said Mrs Brown, campaigner for women's rights "are the Big Two. We were the first people to tell women that work can be — and ought to be — just about as thrilling as a love affair." Helen Gurley Brown would probably not recognise herself as a leader of women's liberation, but twenty years ago she wrote *Sex and the Single Girl* a light hearted tract with an entirely serious purpose. *Cosmopolitan*, the magazine which grew out of the sacks of correspondence she received from the book, was founded in 1965. It now has a circulation of just under three million, and she is Editor-in-Chief.

Most women's magazines could be described as trade papers, and the *Cosmopolitan* girl in America is a woman between the ages of 18 and 34, who lives in a city of over one million population, and who earns her own living. British *Cosmopolitan* which celebrates 10 years of life this week, is top of the circulation league of women's magazines at 440,000. It differs from its American parent in that 50% of its readers are under 25, they are well educated working women. Under the guidance of Deirdre McSharry, editor for the past 9 years, it continues on a highly successful course.

Helen Gurley Brown is a slim, elegant women, with huge brown eyes, which miss *nothing*. The seat of power in America is a corner office with windows, and her own is pretty, flower filled and wall papered, and is quite clearly the powerhouse.

Twenty years ago girls were secretaries, and went to job interviews wearing hats and gloves. Helen Gurley Brown can remember the first woman she met now had a secretary of her own. "I was a secretary, and women were secretaries, librarians, nurses, teachers and sales girls — a woman with a secretary was like meeting goddess, somebody from another world, another planet! It was wonderful to have a good job and get your boss's speech ready and type it and hand him his itinerary, plane ticket and Burberry and send him to the air port, but it's *much* better when they hand you *your* speech and *your* ticket and itinerary and *your* Burberry and send *you* to the airport. It's better to get recognition for what you do, and we have given this message to our readers from the begining."

Sex and the Single Girl instructed young women to make the best of themselves, and the most of their work. Helen Gurley Brown had seventeen (or more) secretarial jobs before going to work for the big American advertising agency of Foote, Cone and Belding, where Mr Belding (a discerning man) noticed the energy, ability and charm and promoted his secretary into being one of the highest paid women copy writers of the time.

The book was sometimes witty, sometimes cynical ("If your boss likes his wife, you like his wife. If he hates his wife, you like his wife. This will establish you as a saint") and sometimes perhaps rather too mercenary — nothing was for nothing, and looking back over 20 years, one comes to the conclusion that she was right. She was also a liberator, in that she revealed what everyone knew but were afraid to say. "It was considered a very racy book at the time, because it said that people were having sex lives without being married and they weren't being penalized for it — heavens to betsy, they were *enjoying* it!"

While Mrs. Brown regard liberation from guilt and punishment as a good thing, there is a tinge of regret. "Women are now *expected* to be sexually active, and I think it might be a *tiny* bit of a burden. If you are not just having a great passionate time every moment, you might ask yourself if there was something the matter. You can no longer say "What kind of a girl do you think I am?" you have to be much more careful, and kind, and subtle, if you don't want to go to bed with a man." In the past, she thinks, it was more fun. (She has been happily married for nearly 25 years to David Brown, film producer and director of the Zanuck/Brown Company, which made *The Sting*, and *Jaws*, among others.) "One went along with the very romantic dating and mating games being played by the old rules. Some of the romance has gone out of sex — you were the *prize* — imagine being a prize just because you existed! A cherished, adored, beloved creature." Of course, says Mrs. Brown briskly, we all knew it was a game, but it was fun and if we have sacrificed some of the fun, then we have gained in


Helen Gurley Brown

power, responsibility, work, money.

There are several things left which trouble her about a woman's world — the fact that women still don't get equal pay for equal work, and the problem of motherhood and a career. No one ever *asks* a man if he would give up his work for his family life. "We did predate the women's liberation movement, but it's wonderful — I think it's working good!"

She points out that she doesn't have a college degree, she was never considered beautiful or especially intelligent, her family was poor and she wrote an extraordinarily successful book and is the Editor of a magazine that sells just under 3 million copies. "I still feel the same excitement as I did when we began. I used to love advertizing anything you think or feel — and anything which makes you successful in your personal life can be transferred into business — your energy, your intuition, your empathy. In editing, you also have to use your judgment, and I *practically* would work without being paid, I enjoy it so much."

Elegant, assured, witty and absolutely in charge, she is, and always will be, the Cosmo Girl.

Philippa Toomey

Opera

Wagner's own sort of midsummer magic

Die Meistersinger

Covent Garden

The Royal Opera's most recent production of Wagner's *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* dates from 1969. It was not very distinguished to look at, still less so at its only revival two years later, since when it has remained under wraps. Now it has taken on a new lease of life, thanks to an interesting, skilfully chosen cast, virtually all new; to a newly rethought production by Hans Hartleb using Barry Kay's existing sets; and to Sir Colin Davis's characteristically enthusiastic and penetrating musical interpretation, the first time he has conducted it. Do not expect perfection, but already on Monday night Wagner's midsummer magic was working potently.

Davis launched the overture warmly, lyrically and grandly. Occasionally, here and later, some dislocation of ensemble momentarily blurred the clean textures; generally we were drawn to admire the vital lilt, even the bounce, of David's music, and the third verse of Beckmesser's serenade, and the popular revelry before the song-contest by the Pegnitz. More important, Davis maintained the music's tension so that each act could be felt as a whole, not just as set pieces with connecting passages.

Barry Kay's sets look respectable, and Hartleb finds them dramatically serviceable too. It is inconvenient that in church Eva sits with her back to her suitor Stolzing: their furtive ogling during the hymn has to become something less clandestine, and I was not surprised that some of the congregation eyed the bold stranger askance as they left St Katharine's Church.

The chief merits of Hartleb's production are firm, credible characterization of all the principal roles, and neat, lucid presentation of the major set-pieces. Each of the 12 Mastersingers is a personality, particularly Francis Egerton's dynamic mini-Vogelgesang, John Dobson's ancient Zorn, bespectacled and snowy-bearded, and Barry Mora's popinjay Kothner ("Zu einer Freiung" needs more tonal substance than he gave it, though the later "Koloratur" was nicely voiced, as is proper to the proud clerk of such a guild).

Gwynne Howell's Pogner gave vocal and musical pleasure all the evening, his tiny monologue at the beginning of the second act as much as his big formal Address about his plans for the Feast of St John. It was a pleasure to see quite a young Pogner, especially since Howell is regularly cast in grandfather parts, and has to disguise his handsome young bass. Again I admired his vivid, fluent German.

Geraint Evans has been our regular and masterly Beckmesser for more than 20 years. In the last Covent Garden revival his portrayal was moving perilously towards burlesque. This time it has recovered credibility and something approaching likability. As referee of his rival's entrance examination, this Beckmesser is dangerous, not absurd; his hallucinatory mime in Sachs's workshop is absurd, but painfully realistic.

He is a gruesomely unprepossessing suitor for Eva (unlike Hermann Prey at Bayreuth), but so intent on his serenade beneath her window that his enthusiasm is shared, and you are almost sorry when David beats him up. I have to report that Sir Geraint's voice is in lusty form, though he ducked his last top A in the workshop.

Hartleb brings Beckmesser back to the festal gathering at the end, despite his discomfiture, and even shows him welcomed affectionately by the circle of his fellow-guildsmen — Sir Geraint's meekness here is touching indeed. He has returned hardly observed. Just so, Hans Sachs's arrival at the Singing School goes unnoticed (a parallel?). Hans Sotin is a big, burly man, and he holds the stage for the rest of the opera, an unpretentious cobbler, but manifestly the idol of his friends and neighbours.

Sotin's impersonation of Sachs is worth watching, even when he is not at the centre of the action, spying on the lovers as they plan to elope, amusedly observing the street-brawl from one side, not interfering until he can field Eva, Walter and David all with one set of actions. He is a gentle giant, as we realize from Sotin's unforced, exquisitely expressive account of his four famous monologues and the Cobbling Song — what a marvellous role for such a voice, and such an artistic tower of strength.

This Sachs is handsome too, and he is obviously dear to this Eva, Lucia Popp, a new impersonation for her, in a heavier sort of vocal music than heretofore. It suits her voice perfectly, and she shows us a rich, spoiled young girl, high-spirited and generously affectionate, tall and willowy and absolutely delectable. She made sure that all the music in her part sounded as enchanting as Wagner (identifying with Sachs and Walter at once) carefully planned.

Much was hoped of the new Stolzing, Reiner Goldberg from the State Opera in East Berlin. He is personable in appearance, hardly romantic: his voice is big and secure, but not heroically alluring. Hopes may be fulfilled when he is familiar with the house and the production.

We have a winsome, eager new David in Robert Tear, delightful in his lesson on composition technique, robust in his assault on Beckmesser, almost unrecognizable without his beard and with a thatch on top. He looks the part but, as with the other Apprentices, I always wish somebody would cast real boys (not girls in drag) and immediate post-graduate young men, for real credibility: this revival does well, if not ideally, in that respect.

William Mann

Reg Wilson

Lucia Popp's enchanting Eva, with Reiner Goldberg (left) and Gwynne Howell

Television

Wit and wisdom

After the ambitious scale of *United Kingdom*, Jim Allen's new play was a rueful Mancunian comedy of approaching male menopause and marriage that was perfect in all its proportions and length — a rare quality now that single plays have started to follow serials into listlessness and obesity: at 55 minutes Willie's Last Stand (BBC 1) was just right. It was very funny, too. Marriage was what you undertook to share with the girls who went on saying no until you did, after which you spent the rest of your life wishing you had not; if the Government passed a law saying that all women and children would be provided for if their menfolk abandoned them, you would see the biggest jailbreak in history.

Willie (Paul Freeman), happily married to Bernie, did not agree: on the other hand, copping the birds was like getting the sun on your face and feeling at 40 the hand of old age tighten its grip; Willie decided to turn to *the sun just once more, with* the golfing widow and publican's wife Lil (the stunning and wise Colette O'Neill). He failed, and virtuous, paper-hanging Bernie's luck was in. In the background, there was real marital brutality and tedium, the misery of unemployment and pride destroyed, together with mindless racist chatter in the Public Bar. Realism and believability throughout, plus a nice dryness and detachment to keep the comedy buoyant and sentimentality at bay.

"It was not a row of coffins", explained Isadora Duncan of an hallucination on tour in St Petersburg, "but *fatigue*". With all her gush about an art born of the sea, meetings of twin souls and acclaimed tour*nays* in America, Europe and Russia, Isadora is impossible to take entirely seriously, and yet, beyond the staggering self-consciousness and barefoot-in-the-door salesmanship, there is something heroic, too. I have not seen MacMillan's full-length ballet in the theatre, but remembering some of the less than welcoming reviews the original received, not least on this page, I should guess that Derek Bailey's film of Isadora (Granada) strengthened the coherence of Gillian Freeman's scenario considerably.

Anthony Wall made a thoroughly artful film for Arena (BBC2) about that most artless of subjects, Roy Plomley and *Desert Island Discs*. Mr Plomley collaborated on the joke with quiet but liberated glee, first as a kind of benign Keeper of the Heavenly Gate (perfect casting), next showing his security pass to the man at the door of the BBC, next as Nelson, and finally in Plomley's Ultimate Nightmare, as skipper of Broadcasting House itself, steering her like the Titanic, all lights ablaze, through storm-tossed seas. When not talking to Paul Macartney, Kenneth Galbraith, Frankie Howerd, Trevor Brooking and The Lord Mayor of London, Plomley played the ultimate castaway behind a windbreak of Shakespeare and the Bible on a studio beach.

Michael Ratcliffe

Concerts

Purest Britten

Medici Quartet

Waterloo Room

A selection of twentieth-century British string quartets, which is what the Park Lane Group are offering in the series of four concerts that opened on Monday, is not at all the arid prospect it might first appear. For, after a century and a half of more or less permanent residence in Vienna, the muse of the string quartet has lately found her dwelling further afield, and most of the great quartets of the last 50 years, when they have not been written by Shostakovitch, have come from composers in English-speaking countries: Schoenberg, Carter and Babbitt in the United States, and here Britten, Tippett, Bridge and many others.

It was Britten's third quartet that completed and crowned this opening concert, overshadowing everything else. Nor could it have been otherwise. The Medici were sometimes strained by the rarefaction of the music and the purity, but more than enough remained to make one wonder at the constant surprisingness achieved with minimum means: how the opening Moderato finds movement in rest, and rest in movement; how the finale obliges one to regard its tune as accompaniment and its accompaniment as the main interest. Still more astonishing is the completeness with which Britten removes from his swan song all personal traits. His substance is the basic substance of the art, his matter of depth and generality that goes far beyond individual expression.

At the moment, with the piece still scintillating in my mind, I can think of nothing else from the last decade that contributes as much to musical experience — certainly not, unfortunately, the other three quartets in this programme.

Dominic Muldowney's first quartet, a student work, had the informality, the sketchiness that is one of his most attractive qualities, but it was a strangely unfond farewell to late romanticism. Elisabeth Lutyens's *Diurnal*, her op 146, was an abstract dawn-to-dusk study of irritating Webernism.

David Matthews's second quartet, though, was a work of generosity and passion, hampered only by a harmonic fixity at odds with its galloping ideas: perhaps the links with tonality could be loosened or made to work harder.

Paul Griffiths

RCS/Davies

Festival Hall

The specifically Catholic inspiration of *The Dream of Gerontius* might seem to limit the work's appeal. But the power of Cardinal Newman's imagery and the sincerity of Elgar's music have given it a universal and lasting popularity. Perhaps it is for this reason that its impact in performance depends more than ever on the integrity of the central character, Gerontius.

Kenneth Collins had some fine moments in his singing of the role, top notes ringing out heroically. But robustness is not everything here. Gerontius is by turns fearful, confident, vulnerable, expectant; in this interpretation there was very little modulation of tone in persuit of these varied states of mind. Where the melodic line cried out to be shaded, there was inflexibility and, in place of fervent entreaty, we had operatic sobs. Mr Collins's cavalier way with the text never boded well; Newman's poetry may not be to everybody's taste but that is no reason to rewrite it. Most of all, I missed a sense of wonderment in this Gerontius, a sense of discovery.

Fortunately those qualities were present in abundance in the other two solo parts and in Meredith Davies's masterly handling of the score. Mr Davies's pace was measured, his ear for detail acute. Every bar throbbed with psychic energy.

Alfreda Hodgson as the Angel and Brian Rayner Cook in the two bass roles impressed their own stamp on the performance, with lovingly phrased, intelligently projected lines. The vigorous singing of the Royal Choral Society lacked nothing in weight or grandeur, but some passages left them cruelly exposed. In sum, a noble *Gerontius* sadly undermined by its central character.

Barry Millington

Theatre

Sisters

Questors

No movie is so sad as life, says one of the women in Michel Tremblay's *Sisters*, "movies don't last a lifetime." From time to time M. Tremblay's characters appear in a spotlight to speak their innermost thoughts or to exchange private conversations remote from the bustle of a party that continues around them. All the characters are women, and the party is more Montreal's modern equivalent of a barn-raising, a gathering together of neighbours who have come to glue in the one million trading stamps received by one of the women as a prize in a competition.

The play dates from 1968, and the dated ring of truth suggests that many of its elements would go back further in memory. The uniformity of Roman Catholic belief, the tendency towards group prayer with a radio broadcast of the "Hail Marys" and the chorused antipathy to premarital sex, are all frozen in a stylized, benevolently satirical fashion.

M. Tremblay sympathetically engages with the problems of his women, none of whom is free to determine her own life. They are not all dependent on men, although marriage has forced one woman to endure the twice-daily sexual demands of her husband, another has worked in a dubious club until she reached the age of 30, only to be tossed aside by her lover, and a teenage girl is secretively pregnant, at least for a while.

In all the swirling currents of *Sisters*, with the Quebec French translated into Canadian English by John Van Burek and Bill Glassco, there is a steady, alluring revelation of deceit. The moral judgments handed out at irregular intervals by most of the motherly characters are contrasted against their increasing thefts of the trading stamps they are pasting in books for their supposed friend.

It is a world without hope, but not without humour, and Spencer Butler's production has the benefit of superb casting, with a company delivering amateur performances that have all the passion and wit of fine professional emsemble playing. His design is another matter, a terrifying raked platform which only once has the effect of turning the company into a chorus of singing housewives and spinsters.

As a British première, it could hardly make a better case for the play, with its monologues, some apt music provided by Micheal Carver, sharp dialogue, argument and insight, and the dynamic tension of intelligent performance.

Ned Chaillet

London debuts

Beauty under cruel pressure

In Hindemith's Viola Sonata, Op 11 No 4, Jan Latham-Koenig was often too loud in the keyboard part; *fortes* and *fortissimos* were absurdly exaggerated, and it was sometimes impossible to hear Garth Knox, whose debut recital it was. Henze's Viola Sonata had been given its UK première by these players as part of a 1980 concert by the Latham-Koenig Ensemble. That performance was superior, although this one was an improvement on the Hindemith if only because the pianist had fewer opportunities for loud playing, though it was still difficult to hear Mr Knox at some points.

Peter Maxwell Davies's *The Door of the Sun* for unaccompanied viola was frankly a relief, and showed, as had only been glimpsed until now, that Mr Knox has a beautiful, resonant tone and a large, flexible technique. In Shostakovich's long, gloomy Sonata, Op 147, the last work he completed, the pianist was generally more restrained. Mr Knox played with superb vividness and immediacy, and the protracted finale's insistent allusions to Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata were handled with tact.

Any music by Debussy is of interest, but "Musique", which was given its British première by Rosemarie Landry, is a decidedly pale trifle. A setting of Paul Bourget dating from 1883, it is weaker than his other songs on texts by this poet, "Romance" and "Paysage sentimental", that belong to the same year. The former, which includes faint and distant anticipations of Mélisande's phrases, was also performed, and both items were sung in an aptly passive manner.

In fact the whole Debussy group was quite good, for, although Miss Landry's soprano voice is without much colour, it suited the wan, moonstruck landscapes evoked — particularly, of course, by Mallarmé's "Apparition". Settings of Ronsard by Leguerney were undistinctive but again lay conveniently for her voice and she produced a beautiful sound.

Further Ronsard songs by Roussel, for voice and flute, required a more positive manner, yet were fairly successful; and Robert Bick proved himself a suave flautist. Miss Landry is best in quiet, private, small-scale music where the voice is not under much pressure, and Poulenc's charmingly whimsical *Cinq Poèmes de Max Jacob* were more firmly characterized than an earlier Berlioz group that was beyond her grasp. At the piano Dalton Baldwin was not altogether his usual immaculate self.

Max Harrison

NT to visit Mexico

Mexico's tenth Cervantes Festival of theatre, music and dance opens on April 23. It is reckoned to have the scope and size of the Edinburgh Festival and this year performances will take place not only in Guanajuato, where the festival started, but elsewhere in the country, including Mexico City itself.

Britain will be represented by the National Theatre. Other visitors include Leonard Bernstein and the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, the Boston Ballet with Rudolf Nureyev, and the Rustaveli Theatre of Russia. There will be recitals by Placido Domingo, Claudio Arrau and Vladimir Ashkenazy.

● The International Belvedere competition for opera singers, organized by the Wiener Kammeroper, will be held in Vienna from July 17 to 22. The jury will be composed of a number of opera house and festival directors, including Sir John Tooley, Brian Dickie and John Drummond from Britain. The age limit for competitors is 35.

Interview: Roland Rees

Coming in from the fringe

After ten years Foco Novo is no longer on the fringe. It has become an established theatre touring company, lacking perhaps the subversive edge of its early days but still turning on the socialism twice a year. Its history — and that of Roland Rees, its artistic director — represents a case study of changing theatrical fashion.

The tenth birthday is to be celebrated by Foco's production of Brecht's *Edward II* at the Round House, starting this evening. The production has been picking up good notices in a pre-season tour to Mold, Croydon and Basildon, all theatres on the "medium scale" circuit into which the Arts Council has slotted the company.

Rees, aged 41, and a graduate of the University of Wales, fits neatly into his own character study of the typical late-Sixties fringe community membership. To qualify it is advisable to have been born during the war, benefited from the 1944 Education Act, attended a non-Oxbridge university and helped hoist aloft the banner of socialism and art in the palmy days of 1968. Rees's baptism occurred in New York when, struck by the irrelevance of being a Welshman pursuing research into the life of the American black leader Marcus Garvey, he became involved with off-off-Broadway.

"About 70 per cent of the people in that world were just waiting for their break to get on Broadway. The other 30 per cent were there because that was where they wanted to work. I counted myself among the 30 per cent."

Back in England he worked with the Open Space and the Traverse as well as Inter-Action's Ambience, for which he discovered the black writer Mustapha Matura. It was fringe all the time.

"I think I could bring something fresh to other corners of the repertoire . . ."

Foco Novo was formed in 1972 to stage the play of the same name by Bernard Pomerance, who was later to become known as the author of *The Elephant Man*. Pomerance raised the money for the production and the company kept one eye on the Arts Council in the hope — though in those expansionary days it was more like the expectation — of a subsidy. The performance in a Gospel Oak garage did the trick and the revenue subsidy duly materialized. It continues to this day.

"We formed Foco Novo to produce plays with social and political content. At that time the fringe was split down the middle. There was the documentary realist type of play which dramatized, for example, industrial disputes, and there was the purely theatrical end. I wanted to bring the two together." But the merger has not come about. Within Foco the battle between the two sides continues. There are documentaries such as *The Nine Days & Saltley Gates* by John Chadwick and John Hoyland and classics including Büchner's *Woyzeck*.

"It was a conflict within Brecht himself, so it's appropriate we have now come back to an early Brecht for our tenth birthday. I have moved away from documentary realism myself, but the quarrel remains and it's always been reflected in our programme."

When Foco began operations the big subsidized companies stood apart. Now the Royal Shakespeare Company has its Warehouse and the Other Place and the Royal Court feels a little threatened. Everybody has now dived into the fringe market, fighting for roughly the same, smallish audience. That Foco has survived at all in this context is largely because of Rees.

"I suppose it's because I have always put my work higher than owning a house or a flat. I'm still only paid just under £5,500. I couldn't have kept this up with a mortgage. We're not fringe any more, although the theatre establishment certainly don't regard us as one of their members. The penalty is that it's assumed that I can only direct one type of play, but I think I could bring something fresh to other corners of the repertoire. Shakespeare perhaps . . ."

Bryan Appleyard

In this first of a series of essays extracted from his forthcoming second volume of memoirs, Henry Kissinger discusses the true nature of the policy of detente

How to deal with Moscow in a nuclear age

Richard Nixon came into office with the well-deserved reputation of a lifetime of anti-communism. He despised liberal intellectuals who blamed the Cold War on the United States and who seemed to believe the Soviet system might be transformed through the strenuous exercise of goodwill. Nixon profoundly distrusted Soviet motives; he was a firm believer in negotiations from positions of strength; he was, in short, the classic Cold Warrior.

Yet after four tumultuous years in office, it was this man, so unlike the conventional intellectual's notion of a peace-maker, who paradoxically was negotiating with the Soviets on the broadest agenda of East-West relations in 25 years. And not long afterwards he found himself accused of what had been a staple of his own early campaign rhetoric: of being "soft on communism."

The paradox was more apparent than real. We did not consider a relaxation of tensions a concession to the Soviets. We had our own reasons for it. We were not abandoning the ideological struggle, but simply trying — tall order as it was — to discipline it by precepts of national interest. Nor was detente without its successes. There is no doubt that our better relations with the Soviet Union (and China) isolated Hanoi. In 1972 Moscow acquiesced in the mining of North Vietnamese harbours and the bombing of Hanoi and Haiphong; by the end of the year Hanoi settled for terms it had contemptuously rejected for years. In Europe the knowledge that the Americans, too, could talk to the Russians reined in the temptation to blame all tensions on the United States and to seek safety in quasi-neutralism. And later on it helped us to bring about a diplomatic revolution in the Middle East.

I also believe that the evidence proves exactly the opposite of what our critics charged: detente helped rather than hurt the American defence effort. Before the word detente was even known in America the Congress cut $40,000m from the defence budgets of Nixon's first term; when even so dedicated a supporter of American strength as Senator Henry M. Jackson publicly advocated small defence cuts and a "prudent defence posture." After the signature of SALT I, defence budget increased and the Nixon and Ford administrations put through the strategic weapons (the MX missile, B-1 bomber, cruise missiles, Trident submarines, and more advanced warheads) that even a decade later are the backbone of our defence programme and that had been stymied in the Congress *prior* to the easing of our relations with Moscow.

Detente did not prevent resistance to Soviet expansion; on the contrary, it fostered the only possible psychological framework for such resistance. Nixon knew where to draw the line against Soviet adventure whether it occurred directly or through proxy, as in Cienfuegos, Jordan, along the Suez Canal, and during the India-Pakistan war. He drew it with cool fortitude, and all the more credibly because there was national understanding that we were not being truculent for its own sake. If the Vietnam war had taught us anything, it was that a military confrontation could be sustained only if the American people were convinced there was no other choice.

Any American President soon learns that he has a narrow margin for manoeuvre. The United States and the Soviet Union are ideological rivals. Detente cannot change that. The nuclear age compels us to coexist. Rhetorical crusades cannot change that, either.

Our age must learn the lessons of the Second World War, brought about when the democracies failed to understand the designs of a totalitarian aggressor, sought foolishly to appease him, and permitted him to achieve a military superiority. This must never happen again, whatever the burdens of an adequate defence. But we must remember as well the lesson of the First World War, when Europe, *despite* the existence of a military balance, drifted into a war no one wanted and a catastrophe that no one could have imagined. Military planning drove decisions; bluster and posturing drove diplomacy.

An American President thus has a dual responsibility: he must resist Soviet expansionism and he must be conscious of the profound risks of global confrontation. His policy must embrace both deterrence and coexistence, both containment and an effort to relax tensions. If the desire for peace turns into an avoidance of conflict at all costs, if the just disparage power and seek refuge in their moral purity, the world's fear of war becomes a weapon of blackmail by the strong; peaceful nations, large or small, will be at the mercy of the most ruthless. Yet if we pursue the ideological conflict divorced from strategy, if confrontation turns into an end in itself, we will lose the cohesion of our alliances and ultimately the confidence of our people. That was what the Nixon Administration understood by detente.

How to avoid nuclear war without succumbing to nuclear blackmail, how to prevent the desire for peace from turning into appeasement; how to defend liberty and maintain the peace — this is the overwhelming problem of our age. The trouble — no, the tragedy — is that the dual concept of containment and coexistence, of maintaining the balance of power while exploring a more positive future, has no automatic consensus behind it. Historically, America imagined that it did not have to concern itself with the global equilibrium because geography and a surplus of power enabled it to await events in isolation.

Two schools of thought developed. The liberal approach treated foreign policy as a subdivision of psychiatry; the conservative approach considered it an aspect of theology. Liberals equated relations among states with human relations. They emphasized the virtues of trust and unilateral gestures of goodwill. Conservatives saw in foreign policy a version of the eternal struggle of good with evil, a conflict that recognized no middle ground and could end only with victory. Deterrence ran up against liberal ideology and its emotional evocation of peace in the abstract; coexistence grated on the liturgical anti-communism of the right. American idealism drove both groups to challenge us from different directions. The mainstream of liberalism found anything connected with the balance of power repugnant.

Through the early part of the twentieth century the United States thought of itself as standing above considerations of national interest. We would organize mankind by a consensus of moral principles or norms of international law. Regard for the purity of our ideals inspired conservatives, contrarily, to put communism into quarantine: there could be no compromise with the devil.

No doubt the Soviet leaders hoped to convince the democracies — abetted by communist-sponsored front groups and the West's own hopeful interpretation of world affairs — that what had produced the seeming relaxation of tensions was not our vigilance but a basic change in Soviet purpose. More and more western leaders, the hard men in the Kremlin reasoned, would gear their domestic positions to a relaxation of tensions, pay a growing price for it, and seek refuge from the perils of confrontation by blaming the United States for all crises.

That danger was real. But the opposite course was even more perilous. Confrontations not perceived as necessary by the public will divide each country, split our alliances, and produce a quest for peace at any price. No self-respecting democratic leader can sustain himself by treating vigilance and peace as if they were opposites. Our alliances will be sundered if they appear as obstacles to peace. To be sure, detente is dangerous if it does not include a strategy of containment. But containment is unsustainable unless coupled with a notion of peace. The remedy is not to evade the effort to define coexistence; it is to give it a content that reflects *our* principles and *our* objectives.

Just prior to the summit of 1973, I analysed Brezhnev's motivations in a memorandum to Nixon, and there is a glimpse of his own attitude at the time in the way he underlined some portions (in italics here):

Like all Soviet postwar leaders, Brezhnev *sees the US at once as rival, mortal threat, model, source of assistance and partner in physical survival.* These conflicting impulses make the motivations of Brezhnev's policy toward us ambivalent. On the one hand, he no doubt wants *to go down in history as the leader who brought peace and a better life to Russia.* This *requires conciliatory and cooperative policies* toward us. *Yet, he remains a convinced communist* who sees *politics as a struggle with an ultimate winner*; he intends the Soviet Union to *be that winner.* His recurrent efforts to draw us into condominium-type arrangements — most notably his proposal for a nuclear non-aggression pact — are intended both to safeguard peace and to undermine our alliances and other associations.

Almost certainly, Brezhnev continues to defend his détente policies in Politburo debates in terms of a historic conflict with us as *the main capitalist country* and of the ultimate advantages that will accrue to the USSR in this conflict. Brezhnev's *gamble* is that as these policies gather momentum and longevity, their effects will not undermine the very system from which Brezhnev draws his power and legitimacy. Our goal on the other hand is to achieve precisely such effects over the long run . . . .

The major, *long term question is whether the Soviets can hold their own block together while waiting for the West to succumb to a long period of relaxation* and to the temptations of economic competition. Certainly, our chances are as good as Brezhnev's, given the history of dissent in East Europe.

In short, I rejected the proposition of our critics that the Soviet Union stands to benefit more from peaceful competition than do the democracies. It is a counsel of despair, the opposite of what I believe to be reality. It shows an unwarranted historical pessimism, a serious lack of faith in the American people. Nixon would have no part of it. In his famous 1959 "Kitchen Debate" in Moscow he scoffed at Khrushchev's boast that he would bury us — and Nixon was right. Nothing has changed in the intervening two decades to suggest that the communist world, inferior in resources and organization, can outstrip the West in prolonged competition. If the Soviet Union overtakes the West in military power, this will be caused not by detente but by the failure of the democracies to do what is clearly necessary.

If the West saw to containment, I am convinced that it would win its historical bet. The Soviet Union's economic system is glaringly weak; its ideological appeal has faded; its political base and empire is precarious. In the 60-year history of the state, it has never managed a legitimate, regular, succession of leadership. There have in fact been only three changes of leader. Of the four General Secretaries of the Communist Party, two (Lenin and Stalin) died in office; the third (Khrushchev) was replaced in a couplike procedure; the fourth (Brezhnev) was still consolidating his powers in early 1973.

In every communist state — it is almost an historic joke — the ultimate crisis, latent if not evident, is over the role of the Communist Party. In Poland, the party was almost swept away because it was irrelevant and impotent. And we are still only at the beginning of that process of transformation. If *Moscow is prevented by a* firm western policy from deflecting its internal tensions into international crises, it is likely to find only disillusionment in the boast that history is on its side. I remain convinced that a long period of peace will favour the pluralism of a democratic system — the economic vitality, genius for technological innovation, and creativity of free peoples.

I believe that a normal Nixon Presidency would have managed to attain symmetry between the twin pillars of containment and coexistence. Nixon would have been able to demonstrate to the conservatives that détente was a means to conduct the ideological contest, not a resignation from it. And he could have handled the liberal pressures by rallying a majority of moderates behind his policy of settling concrete issues. He could then have used his demonstrated commitment to peace to marshal the free peoples of the alliance behind a new approach to defence.

But early in his second term Nixon was no longer a normal *President*. We will never know what might have been possible had America not consumed its authority in that melancholy period. Congressional assaults on a weakened President robbed him of both the means of containment and the incentives for Soviet moderation, rendering resistance impotent and at the same time driving us toward a confrontation without a strategy or the means to back it up.

In time the Soviets could not resist the opportunity presented by a weakened President and a divided America abdicating from foreign responsibilities. By 1975 Soviet adventurism had returned, reinforced by an unprecedented panoply of modern arms.

Partly as a result of our domestic weakness and Soviet power, for many of our allies detente became what conservatives had feared: an escape from the realities of the balance of power, a substitution of atmospherics for substance.

The Sunday Times *serialization from the Kissinger memoirs continues this weekend with Crisis Day for the World.*

Extracted from Years of Upheaval *by Henry Kissinger, to be published by Weidenfeld and Nicolson and Michael Joseph on March 29, price £15.95.*

All eyes on the man in the middle: the Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev and President Richard Nixon with Dr Kissinger, then Secretary of State (back to camera) at San Clemente in June, 1973

Under Brezhnev's eves

Dr Kissinger had talks with Mr Brezhnev in Moscow in the spring of 1973. He was worried about eavesdroppers . . .

My team — had the usual problem of how to communicate with one another without becoming immortalized in the KGB tape library. In a strange way we felt somewhat more secure in the Politburo hunting lodge than in our usual haunt of the state guest house in Moscow. We thought the KGB was likely to be somewhat less exuberant in wiring the vacation retreat of its own top leadership than in doing so to the residences specifically designed for foreign guests.

We came equipped, of course, with the so-called babbler, the cassette tape machine emitting incoherent gibberish that allegedly drowned out the sound of our voices for eager *listeners*. I do not know whether it worked and I hate to think that I may have subjected my emotional balance to that infernal noise-making machine to no avail. It was a close race between KGB technology and our sanity. In any event, my colleagues and I occasionally escaped the babbler by identifying what we considered one absolutely secure place: the balcony outside Brezhnev's study to which we repaired during breaks in our meetings. We thought it improbable that Brezhnev would be so imprudent as to allow the Soviet secret police to install eavesdropping equipment in his own office.

The new Oxford snobbery

by Harry Judge

Last week it was revealed in *The Times* that Wadham College, Oxford, had "sold" places to two Hongkong students for £500,000. As always, there are complications and explanations: overseas students do not count against the home quota, so no British 18-year-olds will be deprived of places.

Even so, the old prejudice — that Oxford is for the rich — will now be strengthened. Unfortunately that is not the only prejudice against which right-minded people now have to fight. Let me give an example.

Recently I met a Director of Education, a man with a great deal of influence over the lives and futures of pupils in many secondary schools. One of these pupils was coming to Oxford.

This seemed ground for pleasure, but not to the administrator. In my innocence I rashly expressed the hope that many more such young people would come to enjoy all that Oxford can offer — only to be sharply disabused. "No. The place should be destroyed and nothing be done to protect it against a deserved fate. I hope no youngsters from my area will go there — that would simply preserve a rotten system by sucking them in".

This is what I must call the new prejudice. Its tangled roots lie in a compost of damp ideology and sour grapes, and it is every bit as bad as the old prejudice. The robust old version was that Oxford favoured privilege, family wealth and the old school tie. And so, most of the time, and until just recently, it did.

The gift of admission lay in a small number of plump hands, often those of the head of a college. Links with particular schools and skill in manly sports were assiduously cultivated. Admission arrangements, for system there was none, were of byzantine complexity. Closed scholarships protected the status quo, Oxford men as schoolmasters sent up packets of boys to become Oxford men, while the women fought their way in to become a talented minority carefully excluded from ancient buildings and (more important) accumulated wealth. Clever grammar school boys, never from very many schools, were quietly coopted — to the advantage of the university and of themselves.

All that has now been stood upon its head. Entry to Oxford is by a competitive examination, taken either before or after A levels. A price has doubtless been paid, but the meritocracy has triumphed. Closed scholarships have been eliminated. Dons prowl the countryside like medieval friars searching for brains while sixth-formers from comprehensive schools are welcomed on visits and reassured of the accessibility and normality of the place.

A minority of pupils, mostly from comprehensive schools, is even admitted without examination.

The facts appear in the figures. If we look simply at the 2,836 undergraduates now in their first year, what do we find? Thirty-nine per cent of them are women, compared with only 25 per cent as recently as 1975. Forty-five per cent secured their places before taking A levels, as against 38 per cent in 1975. Fifty per cent of the whole intake came from maintained schools, of which a rapidly growing number are straightforward comprehensive schools, compared with 44 per cent from maintained schools in 1975 and 40 per cent in 1965.

All this represents the greatest social change that the university has accomplished in any comparable period throughout the 700 years of its existence.

Nor is it possible to maintain (although many ungenerously try) that all this has been achieved only by a dropping of standards. On the contrary, if we take, as a rough but fair measure, the number of new undergraduates achieving very good A level results (A-B-B or even better) then the picture is cheerful. In 1980, 73.5 per cent achieved this standard — *a quarter more* than 10 years ago and *three times as many* when compared with the group entering all British universities.

For the first time, non-public school entrants compose a majority of the new cohort. It could still be argued that this is still not good enough. Those who think it a thoroughly bad thing should declare themselves openly. They appear to believe that we should have no internationally pre-eminent universities, that hierarchies and excellence are in principle wrong.

I think they are mistaken. But, even if they were right, the system we have will last for this century at least. Meanwhile, if the crypto-egalitarians have their way, many able young people from simpler homes will be autocratically diverted from Oxford, their life chances will be significantly reduced and society as well as the individuals concerned will suffer.

The second argument, which I would be disposed to accept, is that "half is not good enough". After all, the aggressors cry, only 5 per cent of the population at the age of 13 is in private schools, so why should they collect half the Oxford places? That 5 per cent is, however, a misleading figure, and more relevant would be the proportions going on to A level. Here, the proportion is over 20 per cent and this is comfortably close to the share claimed by public school pupils in the entry to all universities. The critics convincingly argue that more comprehensive school pupils should come to Oxford.

How can that be done? Oxford itself can and will make further adjustments. In one way or another, the proportion securing places before A levels must increase. But, above all, what Oxford needs to see is many, many more good applicants coming from comprehensive schools. They will be welcome, and if they do not apply, nobody can express annoyance if they are not accepted.

This is why the new prejudice is so pernicious. There are, I fear, only too many administrators, heads and teachers who — openly and subtly — discourage candidates: "Oxford is not for you." Sometimes their motives are dignified by principle, even if mistaken. Often, just below the surface is a complex of inverted snobbery: "I didn't get in, so why should you?"

This is where the prejudices now are, and these are the obstacles to further progress. Parents and pupils should know this, make up their own minds, and give the colleges a chance to show them just who their real enemies are.

The author is Director of the University of Oxford Department of Educational Studies, and Tutor for Admissions at Brasenose College. He was previously the head of Banbury comprehensive school.

Henry Fairlie's column will return next week

The armageddon ready-to-wear collection

A lightweight reflective suit to protect against the worst effects of nuclear, chemical or biological warfare should soon be available by mail order. Kelco Enterprises, a British firm specializing in survival and defence, is considering this as part of its new policy to cater for civilian as well as military customers.

For as little as £20 apiece families will be able to buy silvery suits which guard against thermal radiation and resist potentially deadly chemicals such as hydrogen cyanide. The necessary accessories, including rubber boots, gloves and respirators, will cost a few pounds more. Dehydrated emergency food packs are also available and should you be unlucky enough to be injured during armageddon a surgical survival kit is ready for running repairs until any ambulance arrives.

For the most serious casualty, heavy gauge, opaque PVC body bags can be used to evacuate the patient to safety. In the event of death a clear plastic flap is zipped over the face so that the body can be identified easily. Wares from this reassuring catalogue were displayed in London yesterday.

Northern epic

That old rhapsode is at it again. At 6.24 am tomorrow, soon after rosy-fingered dawn has poked a chilblained finger out of the North Sea, a thin, spectacled, angular man will start intoning Homer's *Odyssey* in Greek in the Quadrangle of Newcastle University, in an unmistakably Scottish accent, and with panache.

David West, Professor of Latin, for it will be he, is kicking off a complete reading of all 24 books by staff and students of the department of classics to raise money for charity. Accents will range from Geordie Why aye, through finest Sidney Allen *Vox Graeca*, to Best Old Aberdonian Shag Heather Mix. Rhapsodic dress, including *rhabdos*, the rhapsode's staff, will be worn.

Scholarly debate still rages in the department about whether to end the reading at Book 23 line 296, where Aristarchus and Aristophanes claimed the *Odyssey* ended, with Odysseus and Penelope in bed together. The rest is rubbish.

The long day's reading should end at about 10.30 pm. The admirable West will be present all day. He says: "Why should a man be anywhere else than where they are reading the *Odyssey*?"

Saucy!

Michael Harris, proprietor of the Bell at Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire, has abandoned his fight with Christopher Driver, editor of the *Good Food Guide*. In 1973 Harris, whose establishment tolled consistently in the *Guide* through its first quarter century, was one of a brigade of top kitchen-keepers who declared in a letter to *The Times* that they were fed up with Driver's "prevailing tone of acid disparagement and snide innuendo." Thereafter Harris refused to send details of prices or anything else to the *Good Food Guide* or any other guide published by the Consumers' Association.

It did him no good. His wine subsidiary, Gerard Harris, got a full clutch of accolades in the *Which? Wine Guide*. The Bell still featured in the *Good Hotel Guide*, and last year it was reinstated in the *Good Food Guide*, complete with an appropriately snide suggestion that the origin of some of the sauces could be explained only by a scrutiny of the kitchen shelves.

This year Harris has provided all the details requested by the Consumers' Association. What caustic sneers this surrender may engender only publication of Driver's book on March 19 will tell.

THE TIMES DIARY



At 70, which he has just become, George Mikes, the Anglo-Hungarian humorist, is to launch a new career as a playwright. Theatre Clwyd in Mold asked for a play and, thanks in part to a Welsh Arts Council grant, produced the inspiration he claimed he needed — a contract and an advance payment. Mikes therefore produced The Virgin and the Bull, *which he describes as "a sad comedy". It concerns a humble Italian who has the luck to buy a lost Caravaggio for £4, and finds it ruins his life. It will be staged in the autumn.*

No doubt it had to happen, but they might have got it right when it did. As a Mother's Day promotion, Harrods are putting on a tasting of Mumm champagne — but announcing it, they spelt it Munn.

Women first

Olga Franklin, journalistic trouper and Sovietologist, will be lecturing in Tunbridge Wells tonight on women in Fleet Street. Their history there is longer and more honourable than even our letters column correspondent, Jill Tweedie of *The Guardian*, might claim.

Franklin says one could go back to Virginia Woolf on *The Times Literary Supplement*, and recall Rebecca West, Winifred Holtby, Storm Jameson and Stella Gibbons. Her own account, though, will begin with Eileen Ascroft launching in 1935 the first agony column in the *Daily Mirror*.

A colourful episode will be her description of the first all-woman assignment, to the ruins of Berlin in 1946, when Fleet Street's women horrified the officers of the British Army. Franklin's task was to seek out Frau Goering and ask her: "Will Hermann hang?"

Franklin says now: "The more this feminism thing has emerged, the less important women's journalism has become. The only good woman writer today is Caroline Moorehead of *The Times*."

Title tattle

John Batchelor, whose *Edwardian Novelists* is published tomorrow, has a nice story about Joseph Conrad. He hated paying income tax, and when an official-looking envelope arrived, he left it unopened for several weeks assuming that it was just another demand. In fact it contained the offer of a knighthood, and eventually the Prime Minister, Ramsay MacDonald, had to send a personal messenger to find out what had happend to it.

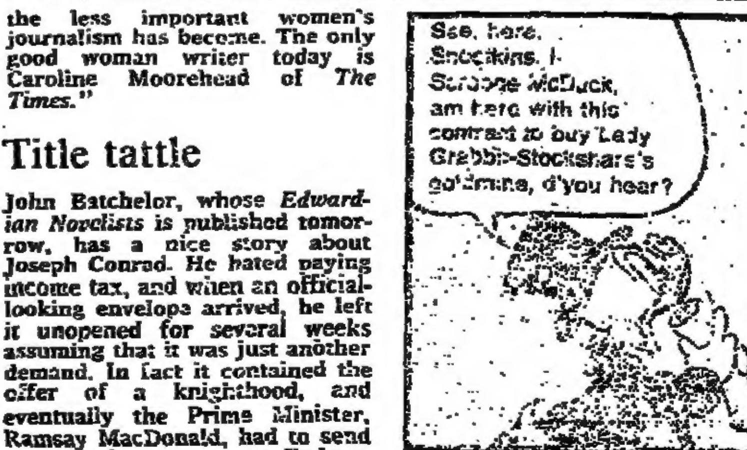
In the event it did not matter, because Conrad refused the knighthood anyway, regarding it as a plebeian kind of honour compared with the half dozen titles he had abandoned on leaving Poland.

Classical mystery

Tomorrow it will be 300 years since the assassination of the opera composer Alessandro Stradella. Italian police have still not managed to bring charges. There is no doubt in anyone's mind that Stradella was stabbed to death in Genoa on February 25, 1682, but investigations have been confused by the large number of suspects raised by his amorous lifestyle.

The first theory, propounded by the French writer, Stendahl, among others, is that he was murdered by a Venetian nobleman with whose fiancee he had eloped. An alternative version is that he was slain by the girl's brothers to expunge the shame he had brought on their family. A third account has it that the girl herself had her brothers kill him when she found him two-timing her.

The latest edition of Grove's Dictionary concludes that Stradella was knocked off by the Genoese nobility after seducing one of their women. While the carabinieri scratched their heads for three centuries, no fewer than four composers have written operas about their colleague's sad fate.



There is no escape for the Labour Party. Its lame claim that it was not infringing Walt Disney copyright because its summer roadshow on the alternative economic strategy featured as Tory spokesman Scrooge McDuck, not Donald Duck, has predictably backfired. As my illustration shows, Scrooge McDuck is a well-established Disney copyright character too. There is no alternative. Labour's economic strategy programme must be scrapped.

A "free radio" station in Paris has invented sex by wireless. It entertains listeners with the sounds of a couple supposedly making love on the studio floor, while a disc jockey supplies a running commentary.

Pass the word

It is plainly too much to ask people who are good with words to be capable of ordering their affairs properly as well. Jeremy Geelan, who edits *Logophile*, a quarterly devoted to words, has just realized that for the last fortnight the Post Office has been returning the journal's mail to senders, marked "gone away".

The Post Office was doing that for the perfectly good reason that Geelan had failed to renew a forwarding arrangement. The result is that while he has collected from contributors some lovely lists of favourite words (e.g. pellucid, aquiline, lily, silken, brandy, paragon, alembic, ocean, notary, perish — B. Levin), he has received no replies at all to a modest advertising campaign intended to attract subscribers who would appreciate them.

We wordy types must stick together, so let me tell you that *Logophile's* unchanged, but once more operational, address is 47-49, Caledonian Road, London N1 9BU.

PHS



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

PORTRAIT OF A PARTY MAN

There are two ways of looking at Mr Mieczyslaw Rakowski, the Polish Deputy Premier, whose remarkable interview with Oriana Fallaci we published on Monday and Tuesday. On the one hand he is a member of a ruling party which is generally unpopular, which has no electoral legitimacy and which, by last December, had become, as he himself frankly admits "bankrupt, intellectually and politically". He has remained in his job to serve a military regime which has detained thousands of people, suspended trade union activity and other civil rights. And he speaks as a true Marxist when he utters the chilling remark that "in politics the individual does not count". Seen in this light his interview is little more than an attempt to win western approval for military rule.

On the other hand, Mr Rakowski has been known for twenty-five years as a restless critic of the system in which he has made his career. He has been deeply disliked by orthodox members of the apparatus and widely respected by readers and colleagues as editor of the weekly paper *Polityka*. Although he has survived through many changes, which means that he has made compromises, his credentials as a proponent of the need to liberalise the Communist system are good. He rose during the reformist period of 1956 and was then disappointed. He attached himself to Mr Gierek, who came to power in 1970 with reformism on his lips, and was again disappointed. He saw the formation of Solidarity as offering a new chance to introduce checks and balances into the system and build links between the party and the people. When he was made government negotiator with Solidarity he seized the opportunity and seemed initially to be negotiating in good faith, but then accused Solidarity of unrealistic demands. Yet another disappointment.

Seen from this point of view Mr Rakowski is in the position of any politician in any system who finds himself in a party or government of which he is critical. How far does he go along with it in the hope of influencing it from within? At what point does compromise become a betrayal of principles? The answer is never easy but in eastern Europe there is a factor that is missing in the west. There is no other party to go to, and the rule of that one party is regarded by Moscow as a vital interest. Therefore, unless one believes that Soviet policy can be changed, outright opposition to the system is hopeless. It may often be morally right but defeat is inevitable.

Westerners with no experience of such limitations should therefore hesitate before passing quick judgements. But this leaves two big questions unanswered. First, is Mr Rakowski telling the truth? Here again, a certain humility is required. We simply do not know. A very logical case can be made for the argument that the regime decided long before December to block Solidarity's demands in order to provoke the radicals and provide an excuse for military intervention. But the failure of the regime to come to terms with Solidarity can just as well be attributed to indecision and incompetence. Mr Rakowski is right that there were some unrealistic hotheads in Solidarity but wrong to put so much of the blame on them, and wrong not to mention that the "general strike" called for December was to have been a very short warning strike. The rest must await more information.

The second question is whether the sort of limited reforms envisaged by Mr Rakowski are actually possible. Every time they have been tried in Eastern Europe, they have been defeated by the Party apparatus, or the Russians, or a combination of both. Mr Rakowski scoffs at freedom — freedom which does not put anything in hungry people's stomachs he says derisively. But it is the antique collectivist economics of the East which have made Poland an impoverished and starving debtor of the West and which leaves the Soviet Union dependent on American grain and Western technology.

The individual counts in economics all right; and politics without a belief in the essential worth of every human being, minorities of one as well as majorities of millions, is corrupting; inevitably it becomes about power rather than about responsibility, coercion rather than consent, numbers rather than people. Christianity gave that ideal to the world. Statecraft has had to wrestle, and always will, with the balance between liberty and order. The reconciliation is imperfect and so is the realization of the ideal, but freedom has been the pulse of every civilised achievement in the West. Mr Rakowski should ponder another question following the battery he has answered; what has its Marxist antithesis produced in the East?

IN SICKNESS AND IN WEALTH

About six million people a year visit Britain from countries with which we have no reciprocal arrangement for free medical care. Some come on purpose to seek treatment for existing conditions. They are expected to seek it privately, they bring in substantial foreign exchange earnings, and immigration officials have a duty to satisfy themselves that they can afford to pay. Others fall ill unexpectedly while they are here, and these have traditionally been treated free in hospital as NHS patients, even though they have paid nothing towards the costs of the service through their taxes, as British residents do.

This minor item of international largesse was characteristic of the spirit in which the service was founded. It was considered petty to harass visitors in a moment of misfortune, and the sums involved were small in relation to NHS spending as a whole. This ample attitude to entitlement may seem more questionable today, when we are more aware of the inevitable gap between supply and demand in a free service paid for out of tax.

Exactly what change of practice is proposed remains less than clear. This makes comment difficult, because it needs to be shown that the change is worthwhile in terms of cost, and that it has no unacceptable side-effects. The old spirit of the NHS still has enough credit in Britain for it to be said with certainty that among side-effects unacceptable to the public would be the spectacle of patients in acute need of treatment being refused it because of inability to pay, or subjected to delay while inquiries are made about status or funds. Our national circumstances may be reduced, but not to the point where we need require anybody to haggle from a stretcher at the hospital door. Equally, it is not acceptable that the process for assessing entitlement should make immigrant residents reluctant to seek medical care because of fears of inquisitions about their right to be here.

Mr Fowler's proposals take fuller account of these difficulties than the scheme outlined by a working party last year. Visitors would become exempt from charges after a residence of one year instead of three. People coming here to work, and some visiting dependents, would be exempt from the start. It is stressed that there would be no question of refusal of treatment to patients in acute need, nor systematic discrimination by colour. A simple prescribed set of questions would be put to every patient on admission, and there is some force in the claim that this might occasionally reduce rather than increase the risk of offensive interrogation of foreign residents, and might remind hospitals to take greater care to see that visitors do not receive free treatment when they have no ghost of a claim to it.

But as an effective money-saver, the plan does not look impressive. Without explaining how, Mr Fowler proposes to save £6m a year when the working party only predicted £5m from a much larger category. The thing is as vague as that. It is not clear what will happen if a patient blatantly lies about his status on admission. Either evasion will be temptingly easy, or else the threat of further inquiries will raise administrative costs and deter resident immigrants. The expense of reclaiming bad debts is a significant part of the costs of many foreign hospitals. Nor is there a clear medical borderline between emergencies where any humane surgeon would cut first and ask questions afterwards, and less urgent but still painful conditions carrying a risk of complications if not promptly treated. The change is likely in itself to create an atmosphere where the possibility of charging is more aggressively pursued, generating suspicion and ill-will. It is hard to look at the prediction of £6m without scepticism, but even if that saving were made in full it would be a trivial return for a petty act of inhospitality in a service whose budget is counted in thousands of millions.

HORROR IN EAST TIMOR

When Indonesian troops invaded East Timor in December 1975 it was quite obvious that no one was going to stop them. Fretilin (the Revolutionary Front for the Independence of East Timor), which at that moment was in de facto control of the country, was certainly not strong enough. Portugal, the colonial power which had not — and still has not — formally renounced sovereignty, no longer had any authority on the ground or any troops capable of taking action anywhere near.

The nearest neighbouring country, Australia, had publicly all but promised Indonesia a free hand. Western powers generally, in common with the members of the Association of South-East Asian states, were anxious to keep on good terms with Indonesia as a major oil-producer, a rapidly expanding market, and a regional power opposed to communism.

Not much has been heard about East Timor in this country since then, but the crime has continued to trouble consciences both in Portugal and in Australia. President Suharto officially proclaimed the incorporation of East Timor into Indonesia in 1976, and this was recognized by Australia in 1978, as well as by the ASEAN states. But Portugal continues to claim sovereignty on the grounds that the East Timorese have not yet been able to exercise their right of self-determination, and the United Nations has consistently called for the withdrawal of Indonesian forces.

More important, it seems that all is far from well in East Timor itself. A pamphlet published yesterday by the Catholic Institute for International Relations states that Indonesian control is "still not unchallenged". It is "clear that resistance continues, and in 1981-1982 the Indonesian army was carrying out large-scale sweeps in the Lautem region, in the east of the territory". It is estimated, horrifyingly, that since the invasion more than 100,000 people have died, either directly as a result of military operations or from consequent famine and disease, out of a population of only about 670,000.

Two documents seem particularly damning for the Indonesian authorities. One is a report sent to President Suharto in June last year by the "Regional People's Representative Assembly" appointed by the Indonesians themselves. This report, while expressing undying gratitude for the incorporation of East Timor into Indonesia, suggests that that objective is being jeopardized by the behaviour of Indonesian troops and officials which "can only be described as being the behaviour of conquerors towards a conquered people". It cites instances of murder, torture, and other forms of violence and abuse.

The other document is a letter from the leader of the Roman Catholic Church in East Timor to the Chairman of Australian Catholic Relief, sent last November, which refers to expected famine and to the killing of many Timorese people, including children and pregnant women, by Indonesian forces in the military operation of July, August and September 1981.

If this was the situation after six years it is no longer tenable to argue that the Indonesian fait accompli has to be accepted in the interests of peace and stability. Indonesia has obviously not won over the hearts and minds of the East Timorese, and her very unwillingness to allow independent observers access to the territory corroborates that. A solution based on negotiations and the free choice of the inhabitants is urgently needed and the international community — particularly those countries which have close economic and military ties with Indonesia, including Britain — should make a much more serious effort to achieve one.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TV channels by satellite

From Lord Aylestone

Sir, It took over 20 years of debate before Parliament decided to authorize a fourth television channel in this country. Recent reports in your columns and elsewhere indicate that decisions are about to be taken which would, without any public debate, give the use of two new national television channels on a British direct broadcasting satellite to the BBC.

The potential importance to British industry of an early involvement in this new area of space technology is recognized as immense. The question of how the broadcast channels on such a satellite should be allocated is, however, one which, I suggest, requires further public debate, together with the question of the most appropriate system of public control of programme standards.

The BBC is on record as saying that it would like to operate two satellite channels: one for a service of repeats and the other for a subscription service. The latter is a form of financing for broadcasting so far untried in this country. It would involve a degree of risk which the BBC, in its present circumstances and given its overriding responsibility to the licence-payer, would not seem best placed to meet.

Moreover, even the corporation's best friends sometimes believe that the organization is quite large enough for its own good and for the interests of the public. The potential role of independent television companies with their immense experience of self-financing public-service broadcasting ought certainly to be explored and debated.

Decisions taken now will affect the shape of broadcasting well into the nineties, when viewers will have considerably wider choice not only of broadcast services but also cable services and video cassettes and discs. These decisions ought not to be taken lightly or without a great deal of discussion.

Yours faithfully,
AYLESTONE,
House of Lords,
February 22.

Voting intentions

From Dr D. J. C. Laming

Sir, It is a matter of surprise that so experienced an observer as Geoffrey Smith, in an otherwise perceptive article on coalition (February 20), can misjudge the nature of the electorate's wishes. When he says "the electorate has favoured single-party administrations with secure parliamentary majorities" he treats us, the poor British voters, as some sort of collective intelligence that decides to elect a specific type of administration. Does he not realize that we do not go into a huddle before polling day, but that the outcome of a general election is the result of our individual choices, taken in secret?

Most electors, when they vote, think they are choosing an MP and a government; and it is the balance of the millions of such choices that goes towards deciding what our government shall be. Ten million vote one way, nine million another, five million a third — where in all that is the electorate's choice of a single strong government? Interpreted literally, such a vote means coalition, nothing more nor less; though no voter has voted for it, or indeed is able to. It is the electoral system that hitherto distorted the voters' choices into "strong" single-party government.

Those of us who support proportional representation in one form or another do so not just to gain parity of seats to votes, but to put political power back into Parliament, where it belongs, instead of in the pressure groups. The electoral roulette game has served us ill for the past three decades and we want an end to it.

D. J. C. LAMING,
Treehayes,
Crabb Lane,
Alphington,
Exeter,
Devon.
February 20.

The captains' table

From Mr T. C. F. Prittie

Sir, I learn from your columns today (February 17) that Norman Featherstone (Zimbabwe/Rhodesia) will not be captaining the Glamorgan cricket team this season and his place may be taken by Javed Miandad (Pakistan).

Worcestershire are being captained by Turner (New Zealand), Nottinghamshire by Rice (South Africa), Gloucestershire (up to last season) by Procter (Zimbabwe/Rhodesia), Kent by Asif (Pakistan), Leicestershire by Davison (Zimbabwe/Rhodesia), Lancashire by Lloyd (West Indies). I suggest that this is a ludicrous situation, with nearly half the English first-class counties captained by men who are not qualified to play for England.

Cricketers from overseas add lustre to the first-class cricket field in this country, but it should be axiomatic that only cricketers qualified to play for England should captain county sides and be given the experience needed to make them candidates to captain England. This is neither racism nor chauvinism, but strict common sense.

Yours faithfully,
TERENCE PRITTIE,
9 Blithfield Street, W8.
February 17

Mrs Shirley Williams is the SDP MP for Crosby, not Warrington, as stated yesterday.

Preserving single Community market

From Mr Richard Cottrell, MEP for Bristol (Conservative)

Sir, The European Community is alarmed at every level at the threat to its survival posed by the retreat into nationalism and protectionism among the member states. The proposed "walling off" of the French internal market is notable in this respect. So is the last-ditch battle being fought by car manufacturers throughout the Community to prevent the principles of free trade enshrined in the Treaty of Rome operating effectively, to the detriment of the British consumer.

But, as a nation, we are hardly free of guilt in this increasingly serious situation. We are also victims of our own brand of double-think. Not so very long ago we had a glorious fight to sell British lamb to the French housewife. It was a campaign that I and my colleagues in the European Parliament supported wholeheartedly. Yet if we equally defend — and some of us do — the right of the French to sell their apples, turkeys, eggs, poultry and milk in the United Kingdom on the same principles of free trade, then we are liable to be accused of deserting the national interest.

Whose national interest? The future of the United Kingdom cannot depend upon sheltering behind tariff or import barriers of any kind. One barrier invites another. That is why the Labour Party are so disastrously wrong in their own attitudes to the Community. Yet I become increasingly alarmed at the vigour with which import barriers of one kind or another are either erected or maintained in order to defend a vested interest within the United Kingdom.

Continental milk and supplies of poultry and eggs from most EEC countries (together with the USA) are currently excluded from Britain with the aid of health controls which are at best specious. There are few obituaries to confirm that French people die from drinking their own milk: but these controls do protect, on the one hand, a dairy industry which is dangerously monopolistic, and, on the other, a poultry industry which already enjoyed virtual dominance of its own domestic market but became petrified at the prospect of genuine consumer competition.

We are now going to attack the French Government over the measures they propose to "reconquer the French market". Naturally, I approve. Equally, I want to see really effective action at last against distortive national aids for which the French are also notable. But I am convinced that the thrust of the attack will be weakened by the steps we ourselves have taken along the path of protectionism.

These issues lead across to the much wider problem of restrictions on trade between the European Community as a whole and the United States. A trade war looms. The import restrictions which we have created with regard to American poultry are clearly not the substance of the dispute but, given the traditional power of the farming lobby in Washington, it would be foolish to deny that they have played a part in souring the atmosphere between the Community and the United States.

My plea is for the restitution of tolerance before it is too late. We are much more likely to deny the French mortar for their own tariff walls if we set about dismantling some of our own. I will not deny that this will create some uncomfortably free trade in the market place, but there is no evidence whatsoever to suggest that protected or insulated industries thrive and flourish.

Britain's role at this time could be crucial. We have it in us to be the best Europeans of them all. I do not suggest for a moment that we tread especially lightly in such important areas as budget and farm policy reform, but our attitudes do need to be consistent.

A determination to protect what the President of the Commission, Mr Thorn, described in Strasbourg last week as the Community's most priceless asset — the single market — would be a mark of our firm intention to see this Community survive and prosper in a world which increasingly allows of little comfort elsewhere.

Yours, etc,
RICHARD COTTRELL,
Bristol Conservative Association,
5 Westfield Park,
Redland,
Bristol.
February 19.

A matter of form

From Mr C. J. Hancock

Sir, Forgive my cynicism, but as a postwar recruit to the Treasury's O and M Division I recall two best sellers from the late forties, the Design of Forms and the Control of Forms, which contained all the wisdom now rehashed in Lady Young's White Paper (report, February 18). We must look deeper therefore to discover why the bureaucratic jungle is denser now than when "scientific management" was first applied. I offer two suggestions.

1. Don't expect more management from top civil servants; your predecessors and many others have tried in vain. As you say, they are preoccupied with "policy"; but in addition they are trained from birth to protect the status quo. As a lifelong coolie, albeit a senior one in the end, my most cherished memory is of an annual report which condemned my "too vivid imagination". Lady Young might consider the Canadian system, where "deputy" departmental ministers have a special management responsibility.

2. As Aslef have demonstrated, productivity demands cooperation from the workforce. Junior civil servants are now strongly unionised, they are no longer brought up to serve in a vocational sense, and management must negotiate a deal with them. You cannot introduce new technology effectively, whether it be a streamlined form or an integrated micro-computer system, without staff participation and support. There are more ways to sabotage a system than blowing it up!

What a pity the Government squandered millions on Pay Research Unit-backed pay settlements before it saw the light. It's a bit late now, but the only long-term answer is a bona-fide productivity deal signed and sealed in such a way that even McCarthy could not undermine it.

Yours faithfully,
C. J. HANCOCK,
41 Rusper Road,
Ifield, Sussex.
February 18.

From Mr Andrew Drysdale

Sir, We are obliged to Sir Derek Rayner for his attempt to cut the paper chain of the Civil Service command (report, February 18). We congratulate Lady Young on her efforts to simplify forms.

I would like to suggest to Lady Young that she invite Sir Keith Joseph to encourage schools to study Civil Service forms in their English Language courses. A question could be included in A and O level examination papers on how to improve and simplify forms.

Would Sir Keith Joseph offer a prize to the school that produced the most improved form? Would the CBI sponsor the prize? We will all gain from being rid of the burden of completing forms which are often unnecessary and usually unintelligible, but the CBI more than anybody.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW DRYSDALE,
Ferriers Grange, Hookwood,
near Horley, Surrey.

Fuel subsidies

From Mr Andrew Warren

Sir, Responding to understandable concern about the proposed further substantial increases in domestic gas and electricity prices, you report the Prime Minister today (February 19) as stating that her Government "is providing a larger amount of fuel subsidy than any previous Government". In toto, according to a written answer given earlier in the week, £250m per annum is spent to assist the lower paid with their heating bills.

The money, substantial in anyone's terms, is paid to subsidize energy consumption. In contrast the Government have allocated just £30m this year — a drop in pound-note terms from two year ago, never mind inflation — towards their home insulation scheme; the only fiscal incentive to save energy offered domestic users.

Nobody denies the necessity when fuel prices are so high to provide a cushion for those upon whom these costs bear disproportionately. But the allocation of only around one-tenth of this money to assist in reducing initial demand must be wrong. Here is surely a prima facie case for funding capital investment (in the form of conservation measures) in order to reduce current expenditure (in the form of fuel supplements).

Subsidizing conservation leads to lasting benefits via more efficient equipment and consumption patterns and lowers long-term energy demands. Subsidizing consumption, on the other hand, however socially desirable, in the long run just raises the demand for energy.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW WARREN, Director,
Association for the Conservation of Energy,
39a Gloucester Place, W1.

Lead in petrol

From the Co-ordinator of the Maternity Alliance

Sir, We welcome the publication (report, February 8) of Sir Henry Yellowlees's letter on the risk to children from lead and the comment of the chairman of the campaign for lead-free air.

However, we believe that both letters, while rightly exposing the dangers to children, fail to place the emphasis on that part of the human life cycle where lead does most damage. It would be expected that lead might do its greatest damage to the embryo and foetus, and in a series of American research papers it has been reported that this is so in other mammals.

Indeed, if animals are exposed to lead before mating and through pregnancy their offspring are damaged by blood lead levels about *five* times lower than are necessary to produce measurable effects in young or adult animals. The damage reported includes: reduced rates of brain growth and development, impaired learning and visual discrimination, delayed onset of puberty and reproductive function, impaired kidney function and impaired resistance to disease.

Research under the European Community Environmental Research Programme has reported on the biochemical and other changes found in the lead-intoxicated embryo. There is growing evidence that many other chemicals are more dangerous to gamete, embryo and foetus than to adults or even children.

Yours faithfully,
RUTH EVANS, Coordinator,
The Maternity Alliance,
309 Kentish Town Road, NW5.

Open units for girl offenders

From Mrs Anne Weitzman and others

Sir, We were interested to read in *The Times* (report, February 19) that "Keep Out" has chosen Bullwood Hall, the closed borstal for girls, as the first target in its campaign. Having, in our capacity as magistrates, visited this penal establishment twice in the last three years, we are aware of the disadvantages of locking up difficult and disturbed young women in a depressing environment with limited staff and treatment resources.

Talking with some of the girls, we were sad but not surprised to hear that several, particularly those from the North and the Midlands, had not had a visit throughout their sentence. As it is probably unrealistic to envisage the total closure of Bullwood in the near future, we put forward some short-term proposals for reducing the number of girls held there.

We fully support the "Keep Out" campaign in their demand for more facilities to treat psychiatric cases outside penal establishments. Except in the case of murder, we should like to see the end of custodial sentences for 15-year-old girls — whether the current sentence of borstal training, or the youth custody order proposed in the Criminal Justice Bill.

At present, all 15-year-olds have to be sent to Bullwood rather than to one of the open borstals for girls, at Moor Park in Staffordshire or at East Sutton Park in Kent, because only at Bullwood can they receive full-time education. The very few girls in this age group who need to be locked up could be contained in local authority secure units; this would have the added advantage of placing them near their homes, to enable them to keep in touch with their families and local community.

We suggest that more girls than at present could safely be held in open units. We have visited the open borstal at East Sutton Park and understand that young women with violence on their record react no differently to the regime than others. The absence of vandalism and the cheerful atmosphere in this smaller establishment suggest that more young women could safely serve their sentences under open conditions.

A reduction in the number of girls and young women sent to Bullwood Hall should make it possible to improve conditions there, specifically by reducing the numbers in the prison wings. On every visit, the staff told us how much more satisfactory it was to work with 20 girls on the two small wings than with 35, which is the norm: the atmosphere on the small wings is much calmer, and hence more therapeutic.

We hope that the greater flexibility of the youth custody order will enable these and other changes to be introduced.

Yours faithfully,
ANNE WEITZMAN,
SALLY SAMPSON,
SARAH CURTIS,
21 St James's Gardens, W11.

Serious censorship

From Mr Michael Winner

Sir, I agree with Mr Kitching (February 22) that a great many people would join him in encouraging film cencorship at its present ferocious level. But then many people encouraged the over-painting of oil paintings with fig leaves and the covering of table legs in Victorian times.

I nevertheless maintain my belief that the majority of adults in this country would wish to be able to see films without the severe cutting by one dictatorial man working without an appeal board above him. It has not done our contemporaries on the Continent any harm to see films that we are unable to.

To believe that if you cut dramatic reconstructions of unpleasant aspects of life from movies life will itself become sweeter and less violent is optimistic in the extreme.

Mr Kitching seems to be saying that because he can quote three critical words from reviews of my film, *Death Wish II*, that makes it all the more worthwhile that it was censored. I could match him, quote for quote, in words of praise; but that has no bearing on the matter either.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL WINNER,
Scimitar Films Limited,
6-8 Sackville Street, W.1.

Subject for satire?

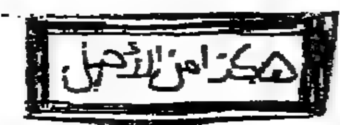
From Mr Richard Barlow

Sir, Neither a Christian nor a Hindu myself, I feel entitled to ask why the arrival of Swami Muktananda in Bombay in a Lincoln Continental should be treated, in your report on February 18, as a matter for derision while the arrival of the Pope in Libreville in an open car of unspecified make on the same day was not.

The fact that a special bungalow, albeit of "elegant but simple" design, had been built for the Pope's use on his brief visit was arguably as much an object for satire as the Swami's pink robe, just as the "objective listener" who found the Swami's message banal and trite, would surely have had something to say about the Pope's strictures against artificial contraception in overpopulated Africa.

To avoid any possibility of being guilty of cultural bias, might I suggest that before the Pope's next visit you arrange for an exchange between your two correspondents?

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD BARLOW,
Duke's Court,
Kent Gardens, W13.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 23: The Queen held an Investiture at Buckingham Palace this morning.

The Right Hon Margaret Thatcher, MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) had an audience of Her Majesty this evening.

The Hon Mary Morrison has succeeded Mrs John Dugdale as Lady in Waiting to The Queen.

CLARENCE HOUSE
February 23: Mrs E. W. Collings had the honour of being received by Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother when Her Majesty, on behalf of The Queen, decorated her with the Royal Victorian Medal (Silver).

Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother was present this evening at a Service of Thanksgiving at St Peter's Church, Walworth.

Lady Elizabeth Basset and Sir Martin Gilliat were in attendance.

Lady Elizabeth Basset has succeeded Lady Angela Oswald as Lady-in-Waiting to Her Majesty.

KENSINGTON PALACE
February 23: The Duke of Gloucester this morning launched BP Oil Company "Young Driver of the Year" Competition at BP House, Victoria, London.

Later His Royal Highness was installed as Patron of The Worshipful Company of Pattenmakers and attended their Court Luncheon at Tallow Chandlers' Hall, London.

Lieutenant-Colonel Simon Bland was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
February 23: The Duke of Kent, Vice-Chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, this afternoon opened a seminar on Francophone West Africa at Church House, Great Smith Street.

Lieutenant-Commander Richard Buckley, RN, was in attendance.

The Hon Neville and Mrs Berry very much regret that they were unable to attend the memorial service for Lady Hartwell owing to absence abroad.

Mr and the Hon Mrs William Macauley regret they were unable to attend the memorial service for Lady Hartwell yesterday owing to absence abroad.

A memorial service for Sir Ian Bolton will be held in Glasgow Cathedral today at 2.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr P. W. Bergius and Miss C. I. B. Hudson
The engagement is announced between Peter William, second son of Mr and Mrs Adam Bergius, Glencreggan, Glenbarr, Argyll, and Clodagh Ione Barbara, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Nigel Hudson, of Rangoon, Burma.

Mr A. C. Campbell and Miss A. C. Bergius
The engagement is announced between Alistair Carnegie, son of Dr and Mrs Ian D. Campbell, 5 Succoth Park, Edinburgh, and Agnes Cara, daughter of Mr and Mrs Adam Bergius, Glencreggan, Glenbarr, Argyll.

Mr P. R. Birkett and Miss A. B. Brentnall
The engagement is announced between Peter Ronald, elder son of Mr and Mrs R. E. Birkett, of Macclesfield, and Andrea, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Philip Brentnall, of Gerrards Cross.

Mr N. G. Blackwood and Miss A. J. Hickling
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, elder son of Mr and Mrs Arthur Blackwood, of Charlton, Sussex, and Angela, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Ronald Hickling, of Oxted, Surrey.

Mr R. G. P. Ellis and Miss S. J. V. Archer
The engagement is announced between Richard, only son of Mr and Mrs P. M. Ellis, of Haileybury College, Hertfordshire, and Sarah, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs J. D. Archer, of Guildford, Surrey, and Singapore.

Mr J. Foster and Miss S. Herbert
The engagement is announced between James, younger son of Mr Graham Foster, FRCOG, and Mrs Foster, of Kalithea, Cecil Road, Weston-Super-Mare, and Susan, only daughter of Mr and Mrs T. F. Herbert, of Mussel End Farm, Sandhurst, Gloucester.

Major J. P. Hargreaves and Miss P. A. Tingey
The engagement is announced between Patrick Hargreaves, Grenadier Guards, elder son of Colonel and Mrs D. J. Hargreaves, of Wellisford Manor, Wellington, Somerset, and Philippa, elder daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs M. J. W. Tingey, of Greinton House, Greinton, Somerset.

Mr G. A. Madgwick and Miss P. J. Moss
The engagement is announced between Graham, eldest son of Mr and Mrs John Madgwick, of Bryants Bottom, Great Missenden, and Philippa, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Moss, of The Bury Farm, Chesham.

Mr S. Mitchell and Miss J. G. Potterton
The engagement is announced between Stephen, younger son of Mr and Mrs Ralph Mitchell, of Liversedge, West Yorkshire, and Julia, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Hugh Potterton, of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

Mr P. D. T. Powell and Miss N. J. Bruxner-Randall
The engagement is announced between Peter David Turner, only son of Mr and Mrs Philip Powell, of Toothill Farm, Romsey, Hampshire, and Nichola Joy, youngest daughter of Major and Mrs Peter Bruxner-Randall of King's Garn, Lyndhurst, Hampshire.

Mr C. N. H. Snell and Miss S. J. Johnson
The engagement is announced between Christopher, younger son of Mr and Mrs C. L. Snell, of The Elms, Bromesberrow, nr Ledbury, Herefordshire, and Susan only daughter of Mr and Mrs N. Johnson, of Much Birch, Hereford.

Luncheons

Pilgrims
The Pilgrims gave a luncheon yesterday at the Savoy Hotel in honour of Senator John Tower, Chairman of the United States Senate Armed Services Committee. Lord Astor of Hever was in the chair and Viscount Trenchard, Minister of State for Defence Procurement, also spoke. Among others present were:
The Earl of Avon, Sir Frederic Bennett, MP, Mr P J Butler, Lord Caccia, Marshal of the RAF Sir Neil Cameron, Mr W E Channing, Lieutenant-Colonel S W Chant-Sempill, Mr Winston Churchill, MP, the Hon Alan Clark, MP, Sir Frank Cooper, Mr Hugh Cubitt, Sir Patrick Dean, Lord George-Brown, Dr John Gilbert, MP, Mr Ronald H Grierson, Mr Eldon Griffiths, MP, Mr Michael Grylls, MP, Vice-Admiral Ronald J Hays Mr Simon Kimmins, Vice-Admiral Sir Louis Le Bailly, the Bishop of Rochester, Mr Nicholas Scott, MP, Lord Sherfield, Mr Robert L Sigmon, Mr Edward J Streator and General Sir Harry Tuzo.

Institute of Taxation
Mr John F. Avery Jones, president of the Institute of Taxation, was host at a luncheon held at Barber-Surgeons' Hall yesterday. The principal guest was Mr Leon Brittan, QC, Chief Secretary to the Treasury. Other guests included:
Lord Croham, Mr Joel Barnett, MP, Mr Terence Higgins, MP, the Hon Nicholas Ridley, MP, the Hon Peter Brooke, MP, Sir Ian Percival, QC, MP, Mr R Page, MP, Mr R Wainwright, MP, Sir Lawrence Airey, Sir Douglas Lovelock, Mr H H Monroe, QC, and Mr Dick Taverne, QC.

Reception

Mayoress of Westminster
The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Westminster were hosts at a civic reception held yesterday evening at City Hall. The guests included the Chairman of the Greater London Council, the Bishop of London, the High Sheriff of Greater London, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, Members of Parliament for Westminster, mayors of London boroughs, representatives of the Services, the church, education, the law, medicine, the public services, street associations and trade unions and members and chief officers of the city council.

Dinners

Engineering Employers' Federation
The Prime Minister was the principal guest at the biennial dinner of the Engineering Employers' Federation which was held last night at the Dorchester hotel. Mr Anthony Hampton, president, was in the chair and proposed the toast to the guests to which the Prime Minister replied.

Lord Mowbray and Stourton
Lord Mowbray and Stourton Chancellor, entertained members of the Primrose League at dinner in the House of Lords yesterday. The guest of honour and speaker was Lord Boardman and among other guests were:
Lady Mowbray and Stourton, Lady Boardman, Sir Graham and Lady Rowlandson, Mr and Mrs Evelyn King, Mr Peter Lane and Mr W L Grant.

Mount St Mary's College
The annual dinner of the London Old Mountaineers was held at the Law Society's Hall last night. The guest of honour was Baroness Phillips and other guests included the Rector of Mount St Mary's College (Father Peter Harrison, SJ) and the headmaster (Father John Grumitt, SJ).

Oxford University Archaeological Society
The fifteenth triennial dinner of the Oxford University Archaeological Society was held in the Hall of Worcester College last Friday evening. Professor Sheppard S. Frere was guest of honour.

Glaziers' Company

The Master of the Glaziers' Company, Mr Michael E. Snow, the Wardens, Mr J. J. L. Corkill and Mr P. S. London, and members of the livery, accompanied by their ladies, attended divine service yesterday evening in Southwark Cathedral. The Dean of St Albans, honorary chaplain, officiated.

Bringing the Salerno mutiny into focus

By Kenneth Gosling

A BBC television documentary to be shown tomorrow will claim that a whole series of blunders was committed before what became known as the "Salerno mutiny" — the biggest rebellion by British troops in the twentieth century.

It happened nearly 40 years ago, in 1943; but the men who were involved are still trying to clear their names and to have restored to them campaign and bravery medals they regard as rightfully theirs.

Mr Alan Patient, producer of the programme, one of the *Forty Minutes* series, says the reasons for the revolt by 192 soldiers; three of whom were sentenced to be shot, have been very largely hushed up.

And there is little chance of the full story being told because of the 75-year embargo on official documents.

The mutiny happened when men who had served in North Africa, many of them sick and wounded, were told they were to be returned to their units in southern Italy. But on the way there they were given new information that they were going as reinforcements to Salerno, in Sicily.

"Some 1,500 men were detailed", Mr Patient said, "but when they got there the Allies were driving the Germans back and they spent four days wandering about doing nothing. They were ordered to join one of the British divisions and they refused. The Riot Act was read and the 1,500 were whittled down to 192. They were disarmed, arrested and put in a cage next to German PoWs."

Courts-martial found them guilty and the private soldiers were sentenced to seven years' penal servitude, the corporals to 10 years and the three sergeants sentenced to death. Sentences were suspended provided the men fought with new units in Italy.

"They were given front-line jobs and it was only a question of time before they were killed", Mr Patient said. "They deserted in droves."

Mr Patient says the men still feel the taint of cowardice clinging to their names even though they had served with distinction in North Africa.

He took three of the men involved back to Salerno while the programme was being made, including Mr John McFarlane, holder of the Military Medal, which was taken away from him after the incident.

Private McFarlane was responsible for a conspicuous act of gallantry at Mersa Matru, having found a badly wounded colleague trapped by one arm, he amputated it and drove him with a number of other wounded men to Alexandria.

"All of these men who still survive admit disobeying the order of a superior officer and they expected to be charged with that, not with mutiny. I can appreciate that the 75-year rule was made to protect the men and their families; but in this case I think it has protected the blunders more than anything else.

"These men won their medals and they are entitled to them", Mr Patient said.

The case was first raised in the Commons in 1945 when the father of one of the men, Archie Newmarch — he now lives in Hull — had his letter read to MPs.

"Thank God someone is taking this case up", he wrote. "All these men were recovering from sickness, some not fully recovered ... they were told they were to join their units and on disembarking at Salerno were ordered to join a different unit altogether."

At the time an MP referred to "a complete black-out" regarding the men and what had happened to them.

The Ministry of Defence said last night that they had cooperated in the making of Thursday's programme. But they would not comment further until after it is shown.

A delegation from the theatre arriving at Downing Street yesterday with a letter to the Prime Minister expressing sadness at the closure of the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company, which is to give its last performance on Saturday. (From left): Mr Richard Todd, Sir Geraint Evans, Miss Joanna Lumley, Mr Derren Nesbitt and Mr Gordon Jackson.

ENGLAND PLAYERS FIGHT BACK

By Harry Golombek
Chess Correspondent

English players made a much better showing in round two of the Western European zonal tournament at Marbella, Spain, than they had done in their disastrous first round. Micheal Stean won well against the Dutch master, Ligterink, and Mestel, with black against Hebden, won a long end game in grandmaster style.

Mestel and Stean lead with one and a half points out of two, but they will probably be joined in that position by Van der Wiel, the Dutch master, who has an adjourned game against Rivas that he should win easily.

John Nunn seems to have recovered from his loss in the first round and he took expert advantage of Short's passive handling of a Ruy Lopez to win a good game and thus come up to a 50 per cent score. In the third round Nunn is due to play Van der Wiel and Stean meets Mestel.

Birthdays today

Mr David Langdon, the cartoonist, who is 68.

Miss N. H. Alexander, 67; Professor E. Boyland, 77; Lord Clitheroe, 81; Dr Lionel Dakers, 58; Mr Reginald Freeson, MP, 56; Mr Richard Hamilton, 60; Mr Charles McCall, 75; Lord Melchett, 34; Admiral Sir William Pillar, 58; Mr Frank Rogers, 62; Sir Edgar Vaughan, 75; Sir Harold Wilkinson, 79.

Latest appointments

Latest appointments include:

Mr Robin Catford, under-secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, to be the Prime Minister's secretary for appointments from March 22, in succession to Mr Colin Peterson, who is promoted as an Under-Secretary to the Management and Personnel Office.

Mr David Woodhall, assistant chief executive of Northamptonshire County Council, to be chief executive to the Commission for New Towns.

Mr William H. Spray, former headmaster of Leighton Park School, to be secretary of the Boarding Schools Association.

Keble College

The Warden and fellows of Keble College have pleasure in inviting old members and their families to a garden party to be held on Saturday, May 29, 1982 (Eights Week). Admission will be by numbered ticket only, and application should be made to the Bursar as soon as possible.

Inner Temple

Mr A. R. Barrowclough, QC, and Mr A. P. Graham-Dixon, QC, have been elected Masters of the Bench of the Inner Temple.

Memorial service

Lady Hartwell

The Prime Minister was represented by Mr Paul Channon, MP, at a memorial service for Lady Hartwell held yesterday at St Margaret's Westminster. The Rev Gerard Irvine officiated. Dr David Wilson, Director of the British Museum, and Lord Hartwell, husband, read the lessons. Lord and Lady Home of the Hirsel were present. Others present included:

The Hon Adrian and Mrs Berry and the Hon Nicholas and Mrs Berry (sons and daughters-in-law), Mr and the Hon Mrs Martin Cullen (son-in-law and daughter), the Hon Eleanor Berry (daughter), Jonathan and Jessica Berry (grandchildren), Viscount Camrose and Colonel the Hon Julian Berry (brothers-in-law), the Countess of Birkenhead and the Hon Lady Cotterell (sisters-in-law), Major and the Hon Mrs Ronald McNair Scott (brother-in-law and sister-in-law), the Earl of Birkenhead, Mr and Mrs Nigel McNair Scott, Mr and Mrs Simon Berry, Lord Chetwode, the Hon Christopher and Mrs Chetwode, Mr and Mrs Lawrence Kelly, Mr and Mrs Dominic Sasse, Mr and Mrs Ivor Williams, the Hon Alastair and Mrs Hoyer Millar, Mrs T Pakenham, Mr Mark Macauley, Mr Jeremy Wapp.

The Belgian Ambassador and Mme Vaes, the French Ambassador and Mme de Margerie, Marquess Camden, the Earl and Countess of Drogheda, the Countess of Avon, the Earl and Countess of Longford, Countess St Aldwyn, Mary Viscountess Rothermere, Viscount Head, Lady Rupert Nevill, Lord and Lady Trevelyan, Lady Dacre of Glanton, Lord Boyd-Carpenter, Lord Iliffe, Lady Carrington, Lord and Lady Byers, Lady Rothschild, Lord Thorneycroft, CH, and Lady Thorneycroft, Lord Goodman, CH, Lord Wigoder, QC, and Lady Wigoder, Lord and Lady Glendevon, Lord and Lady Gladwyn, Lady Soames, Lord Hutchinson of Lullington, Lord and Lady Forte, Lady Butler of Saffron Walden, Lord and Lady Lever of Manchester, Lord Marsh, Lady Thomas of Swynnerton, Lord and Lady Donaldson of Kingsbridge, Lord Blake, Baroness Macleod of Borve, Lord Duncan-Sandys, CH, and Lady Duncan-Sandys, Baroness Birk, Christian Lady Hesketh, Lord Strabolgi, Mr William Whitelaw, CH, MP, and Mrs Whitelaw, Mr Francis Pym, MP, Mr Norman St John-Stevas, MP, Mr Julian Amery, MP, Mr Roy Jenkins, Mr William Deedes (editor, The Daily Telegraph) with Mr H M Stephen (managing director, The Daily Telegraph and The Sunday Telegraph), Mr R J Holland (financial director), Mr John Evans (deputy managing director), Mr T Bassett-Powell (advertisement director), Mr G A Allies, Mr Morrison Halcrow, Mr and Mrs T E Utley, Mr Michael Hogg, Mr E G Marsh (foreign editor, also representing the managing editor), Miss Winifred Carr (woman's editor, also representing the fashion editor), Mr J W M Thompson (editor, The Sunday Telegraph) and Mrs Thompson, Mr George Evans (managing editor) and Mrs Evans, Mr Desmond Albrow (assistant editor, Features), Mr Duff Hart-Davis, Mr Ian Waller and Mr Kenneth Rose;

The Hon Mrs Smith-Bingham, Princess Joan Aly Khan, the Hon Alan Hare (chairman, Financial Times) and Mrs Hare, the Hon Mrs Adrian Lyttelton, the Hon Mrs M C Watson, the Hon Hugh Lawson, the Hon Christopher Lennox-Boyd, Sir Anthony Meyer, MP, and Lady Meyer, Sir Richard Thompson (representing the Trustees of the British Museum and the British Museum Society) and Lady Thompson, Sir Denis Hamilton, Sir William and Lady Rees-Mogg, Sir Harry and Lady Boyne, Lady (Colin) Coote, Sir Roy Strong and Miss Julia Trevelyan Oman and Sir Alexander Glen (Victoria and Albert Museum), Sir Charles Mott-Radclyffe, Sir Nigel Fisher, MP, and Lady Fisher, Lady Daubeny, Dame Mary Smieton, Sir Denys Lasdun, Sir William Clark, MP, Lady Sandilands, Sir Edward Tomkins, Sir Nicholas Henderson, Lady (Dingle) Foot, Sir Charles and Lady Villiers, Sir Philip de Zulueta (chairman, Franco-British Council) and the Hon Lady de Zulueta.

Mr Rupert Murdoch, Mr Harold Evans (editor, The Times), Mrs Paul Channon, Mrs David Wilson, Mr Anthony Powell, Mr John Cavanagh, Mrs Anthony Quayle, Mrs James de Rothschild, Miss Mary Brassey, Mrs David Bruce, Mr and Mrs Edward Rayne, Professor Michael Jaffe, Countess Csaky, Mrs Maurice Edelman, Mr Paul Johnson, Mr and Mrs Aidan Crawley, Mr Algy Cluff, Mr Neville Ford, Mrs Peregrine Worsthorne, Mr Peter Gibbings (chairman, The Guardian), Mr Roger Harrison and Mr Donald Trelford (The Observer), Mr and Mrs Evelyn de Rothschild, Mr Andrew Knight, Mr Alistair Horne, Mr Desmond Fennell, QC, and Mrs Fennell, Mr Neil Stratford, Mr Michael Grylls, MP, and Mrs Grylls, Mr John Patten, MP, Mr Gerald O'Brien (Conservative Party), Professor L C B Gower, Mr Norman Lamont, MP, and Mrs Lamont, Professor Douglas Johnson, Mr Ronald Grierson, Mr Jeffery Daniels (director, Geffrye Museum), Mr Andrew Faulds, MP, Mr Antony Buck, QC (representing the Chairman and Governors of the English-Speaking Union), Professor J Mordaunt Crook, Mr John Le Page (Newspaper Proprietors Association), Miss Muriel Bowen (The Sunday Times), Dr J G W Jones (British University Debate Committee), Mr Kenneth Harris, Mr Christopher Rawlings (140 Trustee Company), Mr Anthony Ellis (editor, British Museum Society Bulletin), Mr M A Pelham, Mr Gordon Davies (Amalgamated Press) and Miss Moriel Davies, Mr E J Cuffe-Adams (Reed Paper and Board, UK), Mr Luke Rittner (Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts), Mr Jack Hill, Mr and Mrs Terence Mullaly, Mr John Izbicki, Mr Colin Welch, Miss R M Taylor, Miss Winefride Jackson, Mrs D Molen and Mrs Eileen Fuller.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev J S Bell, Vicar of The Holy Spirit, Bretton, diocese of Peterborough, to be also Priest in Charge of Marholm, same diocese.

The Rev P P S Brownless, Vicar of Heckfield with Mattingley with Rotherwick, diocese of Winchester, to be also Rural Dean of Odiham, same diocese.

The Rev J D Daglish, Assistant Curate of Kirk Ella, diocese of York, to be Vicar of St Cuthbert's Hull, same diocese.

The Rev B De La Mare, Vicar of St Oswald's, diocese of Durham, also to be Chairman of the Durham Diocesan Family Welfare Council, same diocese.

The Rev J O Drackley, Priest in Charge of Dalbury, Longford, Long Lane and Radbourne, diocese of Derby, to be Assistant Vicar of Turnditch.

The Rev J E Durnford, Vicar of Hebden Bridge, diocese of Wakefield, to be also Rural Dean of Calder Valley, same diocese.

The Rev M J Folzey, Rector of St Peter, London docks, with St John, Wapping, diocese of London, to be Vicar of Christ the Saviour, Ealing, same diocese.

Canon A J Gardiner, Rector of Rushton and Pipewell and Glendon with Thorpe Malsor, diocese of Peterborough, to be also Priest in Charge of Loddington, same diocese.

The Rev L J Green, Vicar of Oxclose and Team member of Ecumenical parish of Oxclose, diocese of Durham, to be Team Rector of Sheffield Manor team ministry, diocese of Sheffield.

The Rev R J Halliburton, Canon residentiary of Chichester Cathedral and Principal of Chichester Theological College, diocese of Chichester, to be Priest in Charge, All Souls, St Margaret's-on-Thames, diocese of London.

The Rev P Hancock, Vicar of St Lawrence, Mansfield, diocese of Southwark, to be Priest in Charge of Charleton-with-Buckland-tout-Saints, diocese of Exeter.

Canon A J Holloway, Director of Education and Residentiary Canon, diocese of Gloucester, to be Rector of Saint Mary de Crypt with Saint John the Baptist and Christ Church, same diocese.

Canon F Hoyle, Team Rector of Rochdale and Rural Dean of Rochdale, diocese of Manchester, to be Archdeacon of Bolton, same diocese.

Regiment buys Indian VC

The 9th/12th Royal Lancers yesterday paid £14,000 (estimate £10,000-£12,000) at Christie's for a group of six medals, including a Victorian Cross awarded to Troop Sergeant-Major David Spence, of the 9th Lancers during the Indian Mutiny. The group was last sold at aution in 1955, when it realized £500.

The medals will take their place in the regimental museum, at Derby, said Major-General J. M. Brockbank, Colonel of the Regiment, who attended the sale to bid for the piece of regimental history. The Lancers won several VCs during the Indian Mutiny.

Sergeant-Major Spence's was for "conspicuous gallantry on January 17 1858, at Shumshabad in going to the assistance of Private Kidd, who had been wounded and his horse disabled, and bringing him out from a large quantity of rebels." On retirement from the army, Spence became a member of the Yeoman of the Guard. He died in 1877.

In a sale which totalled £95,514, with 19 per cent bought in, good quality Indian campaign medals sold well, as did early-nineteenth century foreign orders. Among foreign silver coins, United States dollars were in demand, with two examples from 1795 selling for £1,100 and £1,000 (estimate £800-1,000) both to Werner, the US dealer.

One of the rarest types of British coins ever sold at Christie's an Eastern District, Norfolk wolf-type, stater dating from 65-45 BC, provided an unexpected winfall for a resident of Suffolk. It realized £780 to Spink and Son (estimate £1,000-£1,100).

In a sale of antique jewelry at Phillips yesterday there were strong prices for Victorian, Georgian and seventeenth-century pieces. A Victorian gold, heart-shaped locket made £2,000 and a fine sixteenth-century cameo sold for £1,700.

In a collection of memorial jewelry dating from the Stuart period an oval slide containing plaited hair sold for £210 (estimate £80-£100). The sale totalled £116,226, with three lots unsold.

Latest wills

Mrs Lily Alexandra Hemmings, of Redfield, Bristol, left estate valued at £150,405 net. She left £13,400 to personal legatees, £10,000 and a seventh of the residue to Southmead Hospital District, Bristol, for the purchase of haemodialysis machines; £10,000 to the RNLI, as to half to be shared equally between members of the crew of the Lizard lifeboat at her death, and half for general funds, and a seventh of the residue to the RNLI for general funds; £5,000 and a seventh of the residue each to Bristol Home for Lost and Starving Dogs and Cats, the Friends of Bristol Horses Society, and the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, and a seventh of the residue each to Dr Barnardo's and the Muller Home for Children.

Latest estates include (net, before tax paid):
Bethell, Veronica Lady, of Hook, Hampshire .56,908.
Chambers, Mr Robert Barry, of Chelsea, London.£246,316.
Hollingham, Mr Leslie Percy, of Fleet, Hampshire.£216,738.
Kelsey, Mr Edwin, of Epworth, Humberside.£309,653
Matthews, Mr Edward Robert Cecil, of Camberley, Surrey £251,513
Parry, Mr James Oswald, of Worthenbury, Clwyd.£284,290

Royal College of Organists

Dr Peter Williams, reader in music at Edinburgh University, has been elected an honorary fellow of the Royal College of Organists.

Moreover . . . Miles Kington

In an effort to promote the wonderful world of British fiction (or, in publishing phraseology, to flog as many books as possible) Moreover Enterprises have got 14 top British authors together to boost the personal aspect of bookselling (or, as publishers say, to sign as many books as possible). Our team of skilled craftsmen will, in addition, be prepared to embrace any ordeal, down to appearing in Sunday colour mag group photos, if it helps to maximize sales, and even entertain you in your own home.

Our team of glittering fictioneers is:

Dame Ivy Salad-Burnet, grand old lady of English letters and best-selling authoress of *The Edwardian Country Diary of Not Too Hard to Draw Wild Flowers*.

Hamish Naipaul, the little-known third member of the fabulous Flying Naipaul Brothers and winner of the Mc Ewan Export Prize for any Indian novel set in Scotland.

Kevin Amis, Martin Amis's seven-year-old son, whose blistering *Disposable Tishoos* is not only and interesting knee-high portrait of his famous grandfather but also the first novel to be printed on two-ply soft paper in a pretty shade of peach.

Lorean Lee, whose attempt to build up a memoir-manufacturing centre in the West Country has been so successful, though only with one model.

Burgess and Maclean, thriller writers. When Anthony and Alastair frist defected to the Mediterranean there was some grumbling among those left behind, but the results have more than justified their decision.

Piers Paul Theroux, author of the grim best-seller *Trapped*, about the trainload of passengers which crashes in the snowy Andes and is forced to stay there for three weeks with nothing to read but Neville Shute paperbacks.

Beryl Brandreth, authoress of the grim best-seller, *The Scrabble Factory Outing*.

Phil and Margaret Drabble, co-authors of such grim best-sellers as *Badgers in the Big City, A Sadder but Wiser Sheep-Dog*, and *One-Parent Badgers in a Stress Situation*.

L. P. Thompson, the new long-playing version of E. P. Thompson, complete with figures, statistics, lyrics, words, song-sheet and melody line for guitar or synthesiser.

Roald Blythe, author of *Charlie and the Akenfield Factory*.

Sir Frank Delaney, the Broadcaster Laureate and author of a brand-new book about James Joyce entitled *Did You Know that when Bloom set off on his Walk Across Dublin, His Route Formed the Shape of a Question Mark? Well, It Did.*

All these writers are available at a moment's notice to appear on your chat show, attend your bookshop, open your fete, collect your cheque, charge your expenses and drink your booze.

Back British Books — Hire a Writer!

OBITUARY

PROFESSOR ALEC RODGER

Influential British psychologist

Professor Alec Rodger, Professor of Occupational Psychology, University of London, 1960-75 and subsequently Professor Emeritus, died on February 15 at the age of 74. The son of T. Ritchie Rodger OBE, FRCSEd, Thomas Alexander Rodger was born at Sanquhar, Dumfriesshire on November 22, 1907. He was the eldest of four brothers, the others became a solicitor, a director of education and a physician. Alec, who was educated at Scarborough College and Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, where he was Yatman exhibitioner, thought first of medicine, then of theology and of missionary work abroad. In the event he changed course applying his missionary zeal to psychology.

Occupational psychology and psychology at Birkbeck College, London owe large debts to Alec Rodger. So too does the British Psychological Society. And so especially does the whole development of psychology in Britain.

The 40 years from 1935 to 1975 mark the long period of Alec Rodger's persistent and pervasive influence. In public and in private, in the public and the private sectors, he impressed on all who would listen that psychology was useful in fitting men to jobs and jobs to men.

He was head of the vocational guidance department at the National Institute of Industrial Psychology (NIIP), 1936-47. During this time he became a psychologist at the War Office, 1942-43 (when General Sir Ronald Adam was Adjutant-General to the forces and invited the psychologists in), and Senior Psychologist to the Admiralty, 1941-47. For his final year at the Admiralty, 1947-8, he was Senior Principal Psychologist, and "established" and the first ever member of the Civil Service Psychologist Class that he had worked so hard to create. Birkbeck College in the University of London became the base of his activities for the rest of his career.

In his approach to his many achievements, Alec Rodger had been inspired, as others have been, by Charles Samuel Myers (1873-1946), founding father of British Psychology. C. S. Myers founded the Psychological Laboratory at Cambridge, where Alec Rodger read Moral Sciences Part II Psychology, 1928-29 (while Yatman Exhibitioner at Caius). Myers founded the NIIP, where "AR" did "vg". Myers founded the sections, and much else besides, of the British Psychological Society, including the Industrial Psychology Section in 1919. In 1958, while he was president, Alec Rodger persuaded the society to change the name to "Occupational Psychology Section". He was editing the journal *Occupational Psychology* (1946-68). The connotations were more humane. Occupational Psychology was his own term for his own approach to psychology; he invented it. In 1903, C. S. Myers had started the Psychology Department at King's College, London. It was transferred — lock, stock, barrel, Hipp chronoscopes and every last library book and periodical — to become the Psychology Department at Birkbeck College in 1944. In 1948 Alec Rodger joined the Department as Reader in Psychology in the University of London, at the college, in good time to plan its first laboratories in the "new" building in Malet Street.

At Birkbeck he established the first university courses in Britain in Psychology applied to men and women and their jobs. In 1960 he became the first ever Professor of Occupational Psychology; and in 1961 he became the head of a new Department of Occupational Psychology at Birkbeck, distinct from the Psychology Department, and the first in the world.

Long by now is the tally of his part-time evening students from Birkbeck College and influential are the positions that they have. They, and his personnel selection officers, RNVR, from his Admiralty days in the 1940s, remember first his humanity, and his care for all who were in need of a helping hand in changing or developing their careers. Like C. S. Myers, Alec Rodger believed profoundly in "giving Psychology away" (long before that phrase was invented across the Atlantic): to Psychologists, to manpower students, to employers, to employees, to anyone who would receive it. He was unmarried.

MR GEORGE GORMAN

David Firth writes:

George H. Gorman, who died on February 20 while on holiday in Sicily, was perhaps the best known member of the Society of Friends in this country. For thirty years, until his retirement only two months ago, his work as general secretary of the Friends Home Service Committee (recently renamed Quaker Home Service) required him to present to the world at large and to countless individual inquirers the essentials of the Quaker faith and the changing character of the Society of Friends. He was a missionary, in a Society which disapproves of proselytising; however, it was not doctrine but his warm and open character that helped to change the lives of many, and came to personify the humane attitudes of the Society he loved.

George Gorman was born in 1916, the son of an Anglican clergyman, and educated at Chipping Campden Grammar School in the Cotswolds. Some years were spent working in insurance, but in his early twenties George became a Quaker and soon, fired with the enthusiasm of the convert, he was playing a valued part first among the Young Friends and then working from Friends House for the committee of which he became general secretary in 1952.

A fluent and delightful speaker, he was in constant demand for meetings and conferences in this country, Europe and the United States, a demand by no means limited to Quaker events. His ease of manner made him a good broadcaster and he made several appearances on television, while his clear writing style found expression particularly in two books, *Introducing Quakers* and *The Amazing Fact of Quaker Worship*, which was his Swarthmore Lecture to the London Yearly Meeting of Friends in 1973.

George Gorman's deep concern for individuals and their problems led him into work in several areas outside the Society of Friends, such as the youth department of the British Council of Churches and the clerical advisory committee of the National Marriage Guidance Council, and in 1966 he acquired a major new interest with his appointment as a Justice of the Peace. In this service he was until recently chairman of the Juvenile Court Panel and had just become a deputy chairman of the Edmonton Petty Sessional Division, which he represented on the Middlesex Area Magistrates Court Committee.

In 1945 he married Lucy Collier, daughter of a distinguished Quaker doctor, who with their three children survives him.

MR DAVID MARTIN

Trevor Williams writes:

For those who knew David Martin it will be with a sense of disbelief that they hear of his death. His qualities of kindness, thoughtfulness, warmth and friendship allied with integrity and constancy made him an unusually fine teacher and it seemed that he would always be with us.

He was born in Winnipeg on August 2, 1911, and won an Associated Board Scholarship the year after his friend Frederick Grinke. Pupils of Mr Waterhouse in Canada, they both came to study at the Royal Academy of Music with Rowsby Woof. There he met his future wife, the cellist Florence Hooton and their mutual interest in chamber music was the basis of their distinguished careers.

The friends they made were always loyal to them — a tribute to them both. As well as the piano trio they formed with Iris Loveridge, David was leader of the string quartet, with Neville Marriner, Eileen Grainger and Bernard Richards. This ensemble was one of the best known and busiest in this country for twenty-five years, and did a great deal to encourage the work of contemporary composers.

He began to take pupils soon after he came to London becoming a professor at the Royal Academy of Music in 1944 and all of us who were fortunate enough to study with him (that list would be a violinist's directory of the last 40 years) would wish to thank him.

His honesty, encouragement, adherence to the highest standards, ability to help and selflessness were given to all, and he never stifled the students' individual talent by forcing his own upon them.

Perhaps the overall quality of his life was his humanity, and through his work he will indeed always be with us.

COL SIR IAN WALKER-OKEOVER

Colonel Sir Ian Walker-Okeover, Bt, DSO, Lord Lieutenant of Derbyshire from 1951 to 1977, died on February 20 at the age of 79. In 1956 he was granted royal licence and authority to add the name Okeover to his own.

The eldest son of Sir Peter Walker, second baronet, who he succeeded in 1915, he had a distinguished career in the Second World War gaining a double DSO while serving in North Africa and Italy with The Derbyshire Yeomanry. He was High Sheriff of Derbyshire in 1934.

He married in 1938 Dorothy Elizabeth, younger daughter of Captain J Heber-Percy. They had a son and two daughters. The son, Captain P R L Walker-Okeover succeeds his father.

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Focus on Portugal

Portugal's Coalition Government has to weather troubled times. But while the country's economic difficulties are fundemental, almost eight years after the "Revolution of the Carnations" it is the time-consuming, lumbering struggle of rival political factions which often dominates the national scene.

Senhor Francisco Pinto Balsemão, the midddle of the road Social Democrat Prime Minister, has this month had to withstand a politically inspired 24-hour general strike called by the Communists and to face a motion of no confidence put down in Parliament by the Socialist opposition.

After the Communist-led General Confederation of Labour failed to paralyze the country, largely because workers in the rival pro-Socialist and Social Democrat TUC refused to join in, the Interior Minister chose to counter attack. The arrests after the February 12 general strike led, he claimed, to the discovery that the Communists were behind "concrete plans to subvert democratic institutions."

Of course the Communists denied any such thing, but the Government charges did come after Señor Mario Soares, the Socialists' leader, had already charged that the rigidly pro-Moscow line Portuguese Communist Party was carrying out a Soviet plan to destabilize the entire Iberian peninsular.

Apology demanded and obtained

When Moscow's Ambassador in Lisbon replied, insulting Senhor Soares, the Government demanded, and obtained, an apology. It was a secret to no one in Lisbon that what lay behind all this Communist agitation was a determination to oppose tooth and nail reform of the 1976 Constitution.

The scenario is for the Constitution to be shorn of the Marxist Socialist excesses imposed by revolutionary fervour in those days by a democratic vote of Parliament, and for a solemn proclamation of the reforms on April 25, the eighth anniversary of the Armed Forces' Revolution.

The reforms, if they are agfeed in Parliament by that date, are supposed to usher in a settled era of Portuguese politics with a fully functioning western democracy of two main groupings alternating in power.

But today it is abundantly clear that the revolutionary experience and the loss of a 400-year-old empire have left consequences which simply cannot be legislated away as Senhor Sá Carneiro, the post-revolutionary Prime Minister, who died in an aircraft crash in December 1980, intended. Far too many problems of social coexistence and economic survival remain to be resolved.

No one can say where Senhor Sá Carneiro's "grand design" would have ended or, if he had lived, whether Portugal might not have experienced an outright restoration. His death undoubtedly left a void to be filled. All last year was spent adjusting to his disappearance, which also left President António Ramalho Eanes, Portugal's 47-year-old army general — turned skilled politician, virtually unchallengeable after his reelection for a second five-year term within days of the Social Democratic Prime Minister's death.

Senhor Pinto Balsemão, his genuinely middle of the road successor, had throughout 1981 to struggle to assert *his own authority as various* "barons" within his own party and the right-wing Christian Democratic Party in the loose Democratic Alliance coalition each sought to manoevre to influence government policy or merely enhance their own sphere of personal power.

Last summer's political crisis, when Senhor Pinto Balsemão first stopped challenging his rivals and then was called back, could not really be definitive since all the elements of the coalition need each other to remain in power.

Unfortunately for the Prime Minister, what came afterwards was the prolonged economic crisis which still overshadows the national scene. Everyone from the IMF and the OECD to Senhor João Salgueiro, one of the three "superiminsters" to emerge after the August reshuffle and put in charge of finance, planning and European integration, has told the Portuguese people, in more or less diplomatic language, that they are living beyond their means.

As 1982 ended Portugal had a balance of payments deficit of $2,000m, an even worse record of deficit than that of 1977, after three preceding years of revolutionary upheavals.

Senhor Sá Carneiro may have had a political grand design, but his Government failed to find any formulae or motivation to make the Portuguese people work harder and prosper. Petrol imports, coupled with the dollar's rise, high interest rates and the drought, bringing a 30 per cent drop in harvests, could all be blamed, and were. But Portugal, which since the Revolution has had to import annually 50 to 60 per cent of its food requirements, ended last year with an official admission of 75 per cent of food imports.

No wonder that President Eanes, in his new year message, declared that the economic question will this year be "the crucial problem for Portugal whatever happens in politics."

The 1982 budget was presented by Senhor Salgueiro last November as designed for "national salvation," but the austerity measures, above all a wage ceiling set well below officially admitted inflation rates, have inevitably made the going tough for Senhor Pinto Balsemão.

The Communists, who anyway promised his Government labour trouble right from the day his second Administration was approved by Parliament, began a series of ever-widening strikes, culminating in the 24-hour general strike.

But the Socialists, led by Senhor Mario Soares, also decided the time had come last month to launch a campaign offering themselves as an alternative government.

The social and economic troubles did not however, prevent Portugal's politicians continuing their habitual infighting, for if Senhor Pinto Balsemão had problems in his party, Senhor Soares had to struggle to regain a highly-personalized sway over his formation.

The biggest surprise came, however, last month when President Eanes, who had notably helped the Prime Minister to win through last summer's crisis, appeared to make a contribution of his own. Only days after demanding in the new year message that Portugal's politicians work towards consensus solutions, the president launched his own initiative. Perhaps it was the only way, he judged, he could influence a Parliamentary commission quietly working away at severely reducing the presidential powers under the Constitution which created Portugal's unique semi-presidential system.

The Prime Minister is the chief of the executive responsible to Parliament but one key provision of the 1976 Constitution gives the directly elected president the right to relieve the premier and four years ago President Eanes sent Senhor Soares, Portugal's first Socialist Prime Minister into opposition by using it.

Alarm for party politicians

President Eanes' threat, issued through a trusted spokesman, that if he lost those powers he would promulgate the constitutional reforms but then resign and form his own political movement, alarmed the party politicians deeply. But it was the clearly-implied challenge to their own future, through a realignment of political forces, which worried them most.

The semi-presidential system, enshrining a method of checks and balances, can be defended respectably enough, even if Portugal's strong-willed politicians are precisely those who find it most awkward to work. But for the Portuguese people there are advantages in a presidential arbiter, provided he intervenes only occasionally, when the national interest demands, and lets the Government of the day get on with the business of the day.

The December 1980 presidential election, in which Senhor Sá Carneiro campaigned so vehemently until the air crash killed him three days before polling, showed that the Portuguese do, indeed, favour the existing system, and then rejected the figurehead-type presidency Senhor Sá Carneiro's candidate offered them. After President Eanes' initiative last month, a public opinion poll, published in the Lisbon *Expresso*, showed 45 per cent of those questioned supported him against only 21 per cent wanting to see any change in the presidential powers. Almost 28 per cent said they would even vote for him if he chose to launch his own political movement.

The party politicians had little real excuse for being shocked. Early in December President Eanes, while rejecting those voices calling on him to form a presidential party, had bluntly warned the parties that if they went on showing little capacity to solve the nation's problems he might exercise his power to dissolve Parliament and call elections earlier than the constitutionally foreseen date, October, 1984.

The upshot of the debate which followed the presidential initiative was that the Socialists, whose support is vital to the Democratic Alliance Government to provide the two-thirds majority required for any constitutional reform, decided the President should keep his political powers, though lose to the Government the right to nominate the service chiefs and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The Revolutionary Council, the Armed Forces' watchdog, orignally set up precisely in an effort to maintain revolutionary provisions in the Constitution, is however doomed. Repeatedly it has challenged the Sá Carneiro and *Pinto Balsemão* Governments head on, blocking legislation passed by parliamentary majorities.

Colonel Melo Antunes, one of the surviving figures of the revolutionary era and chairman of the Constitutional Committee of the Revolutionary Council, suggested in an interview with a French magazine last December that if the party politicians were bent on confrontation with a presidency whose powers they resented Portugal could find itself in a cul de sac. The only way out was fresh elections and a left wing government based on an alliance of Socialists and Communists. He was answered frankly by Senhor Soares making clear that after the Portuguese Communist Party's defence of the Jaruzelski regime in Poland, such an idea was totally unrealistic.

With an increase of about 25 per cent in consumer prices last year and wage ceilings on top of a per capita level of national income half that of Greece, the mass of ordinary Portuguese people are experiencing hard times and no government can hope to be popular or keep its morale high.



A villager in the north-east. The tiny agricultural plots of northern Portugal underline the daunting tasks of modernization the country faces if it is to cope with entry to the EEC in 1984. Richard Wigg discusses the domestic political scene (left) and (below) analyses the new mood of realism about Community membership

Going to market . . . slowly

When a delegation from Portugal's Confederation of Industry (CIP) went on a fact-finding mission to the European Community headquarters last December M Etienne Davignon, vice president of the Brussels Commission, warned them: "Joining the EEC, is not like writing a letter to Father Christmas."

As the negotiations for Portugal's joining reach the detailed stage — the Pinto Balsemão Government wants them to be carried through to conclusion by late this year or early 1983 with the accession date still targeted as January 1, 1984 — a belated realism is beginning to grow among businessmen, industrialists, importers, and some of the better-informed retailers and farmers.

This is the biggest change noticeable — Portugal first applied formally to join in 1977 — after years of generalized professions of support for accession without any detailed study or prior knowledge of the problems. The stage of effective preparation for entry however has still really to begin.

The problems facing Portugal's textile industry over integration well illustrate some of the new realism. There exist numerous small and medium-sized firms, 85 per cent of the industry, but they only produce some 30 per cent of the textiles and clothing. The Confederation of Industry, defending their interests as members, has been flatly urging the Government since last summer not to join the EEC if, as one director expressed it, "the Common Market is unwilling to apply its own basic principle of a market without internal trading barriers to Portugal's chief export".

Even before acceding Portugal is experiencing the effects of one of those typical tough Brussels battles over the economic and political interests of existing member states. Britain and France are especially unwilling futher to sacrifice their own textile industries to a more competitive newcomer in items like blouses, T-shirts, and trousers. The rhetoric has died away about helping one of the poorer nations of Southern Europe to integrate.

With the voluntary restraint agreement having run out on December 31, something to put in its place is being devised by the Ten. Senhor João Salgueiro, the Finance Minister who has charge of the EEC negotiations, knows that one sector, however influential, cannot be allowed to dictate the course of the entire negotiations. In Brussels last month he only warned the Ten, therefore, that Portugal could not accept quotas of voluntary restraints which would "seriously" limit its future textile exports.

The ECC last year agreed 275 million units of account pre-accession aid to Portugal, 100 million as grant and 150 million as soft loans Again, a conflict of interest emerged with France and Italy unwilling under the provision for aid to small and medium-sized Portugese firms to modernize, that funds should go precisely to the textile industry. It had, they maintained, to be aid to diversify into new areas, ideally in a future marriage of Portugal's relative low wage costs, and imports of new technology elsewhere. Meanwhile France and Italy used other EEC funds to modernize their own textile industries.

Agriculture is another vital sector where that pre-accession aid is foreseen. As joining comes slowly nearer, realism is beginning to concentrate not on the single problem of Portugal's future exports to the Community of tomato paste (as in the past) but on the immense problems of farm modernization, agricultural training and organization of markets. But little has happened because of the absence of projects from Portugal.

Today's realities are daunting

In theory, modern farming methods could with specific crops bring increases in productivity in Portugal of up to 200 to 300 per cent. Today's realities however are daunting: 300,000 out of Portugal's total of 800,000 farms have less than one hectare, 50 per cent of the farmers (average age 50) are functionally illiterate and an estimated 75 per cent have no idea of book-keeping. The farming sector accounts for only 18 per cent of the gross domestic product while employing 33 per cent of the national labour force. Agricultural productivity is still below what it was in the last year before the Revolution yet almost six years have elapsed since the first democratically — elected government took office after it.

In the face of massive food imports, never below 50 per cent of the nation's total requirements since 1974, the Government has just begun an incentive scheme to stimulate Portugal's farmers to grow more cereals, though this has run into criticism for concentrating on a mere volume increase when there exists an urgent need to improve quality.

In spite of promises by the Sá Carneiro and Pinto Belsemão Governments the consolidation of the farmers' minuscule farming units in northern Portugal has not been pushed ahead nor is there a vigorous cooperative movement in preparation for EEC entry.

How long then will Portugal's fragile economy still need to prepare for joining? One element in the Government's strategy of pushing ahead politically is admitted privately to be based on the judgment that entrepreneurs will be jolted into taking their own necessary decisions after endlessly putting them off.

Following the example of Greece, Portuguese experts now argue that the country's agriculture risks buckling under a five-year transition period, and that Lisbon's negotiators must obtain from Brussels ten years, especially for the most vulnerable sectors like dairy and meat products. The danger to agriculture comes especially from Portugal's two big neighbours, France and Spain after joining, and one former Portuguese agriculture minister has seriously maintained his country would need as much as a 20 year transition period.

A major headache is that Portugal's chronic balance of payments deficit problem, already an immense "bottle-neck" for the nation's economic growth, would become even worse if more costly cereals were imported from EEC partners instead of as now from the United States or Canada. Portugal here has a convergent interest with Britain over reforming the Community's budget and agricultural policy.

Many informed Portuguese now argue to the effect that a more flexible attitude is required of Brussels over a compensating resort by Portugal to the European regional development and social funds if an acceptable packet of prospects and burdens involved is ever to be reached.

For industry a five year general transition period is spoken of, but trade organizations always couple this with provisos about the use of safeguard clauses sectorially. The Government has still to adopt a detailed position, industrialists say. Portuguese businessmen are deeply worried about Spanish industrial competition after entry and about multinationals setting up new modern plant.

If you ask a Portuguese executive why more preparation has not gone forward over the past five years the most common reply is to blame the country's politicians, all from left to right, with stability and certainty still not in sight for investors.

The new realism creeping in is also noticeable among those to be affected by the "bread and butter" problems like introducing value added tax and what happens to the country's long-standing system of prices fixed by the authorities on many essential goods and on profit margins.

There exists an alarming gap between what the professional organizations now know and their rank and file members throughout the country.



The Government is resorting to austerity programmes to limit damage to the economy. At the same time, the authorities are trying to encourage foreign investors.

Revenue is rising, but so is the deficit

Portugal was forced last year to slow the pace of growth in the economy to adjust to worsening domestic and international economic conditions. After a remarkable 5.5 per cent growth in 1980; the rate declined by more than half to 2.5 per cent last year. This was the intended effect of a mini-budget introduced in July 1981, which raised interest rates to tighten credit (despite the implications of such a measure for the numerous firms in a weak financial position), and to contain inflation and the current account deficit within manageable levels. At the same time, the Government moved to raise public service and energy prices and begin a programme of scrapping price subsidies.

By the end of the year it was clear that this first austerity programme was failing to reach its goals and the Government then found it necessary to introduce a more stringent plan. After seven years of climbing budget deficits, the prime targets for austerity were, again, the civil service, the budgets of state sector enterprises and subsidies. Revenue in 1982 is now expected to rise by a quarter to 352,000m escudos, the result of increases in indirect and certain direct taxes (as well as bringing civil servants into the tax net for the first time), more efficient tax collection and tougher measures to prevent fiscal fraud.

Despite the predicted increase in revenues, the deficit is still expected to go up by about 5 per cent to 151,000m escudos in 1982. About two-thirds of this are accounted for by rising interest payments in Portugal's $10,000m foreign debt.

Portugal's austere plans for 1982 are based on the expectation of normal rainfall. The country's problems in 1981 were compounded by a severe drought which broke with flooding in January this year. Full results are not yet available, but it is estimated that cereal crops fell by 40 per cent in 1981 from 1980 output and that imports of oil for electricity generation rose substantially. Imports of food and animal feeds had to be boosted by 74 per cent from their 1980 levels. The extra cost of food and grain alone is put at $1,500m, while it is likely that Portugal will continue to import electricity, at least until its hydroelectric reservoirs attain near normal levels. In 1981 these imports, mostly from France, were up 67 per cent over 1980 figures.

Speeding up evaluation

In the first half of 1981, a current account deficit of $1,600m was recorded and it is officially predicted that the total for the year may be close to $2,000m (the OECD forecasts $1,7500m in 1981). The major reason for the increase in the current account deficit was a decline in the terms of trade and high demand for imports, particularly oil, which were nearly twice as large as Portugal's exports. Despite a 10 per cent rise in exports in the first nine months of last year, imports fell by only 3 per cent in response to the Government's two austerity packages in 1981.

Other explanations for the growth of the current account deficit include a decline in remittances from workers in Europe (these were to some extent cushioned by those from the rest of the world, inflated by the US dollar's strength during 1981) and, although tourist arrivals were at near record levels, individuals' spending was depressed by higher local prices and a tendency to cut spending luxuries.

The enlarged current account deficit was financed almost entirely by capital inflows. Last year was a record year on the Euromarkets for Portugal, and about $1,100m was raised up to November 1981 or more than twice as much as during the whole of 1980. Portugal's $500m jumbo loan in early 1981 commanded the finest spreads the country has yet achieved (half point over Libor for the first six years and three quarters of a point for the remainder) and represented a significant advance in terms on 1980's rather smaller-scale loan to the republic.

In the last quarter of 1981, the Portuguese Post Office — CTT ($50m), the Airport Authority — ESPANA ($20m), the Sines port and petrochemical scheme — GAS ($50m) and the highway authority — JAE ($80m), all raised money on the Euromarkets. Direct foreign investment, influenced by Portugal's efforts to join the EEC, increased by 150 per cent in 1980 and 49 per cent in 1981 to total 9,300m escudos in the latter year. Industrial investments accounted for about half the 1981 figure and those in services (including tourism) for some 40 per cent; the United States and France together contributed half of the total investment from overseas in 1981.

Due to high inflows of foreign loans and direct investment, foreign exchange reserves (excluding gold) rose from $795m in September 1980 to $814m a year later. However, by October 1981 they had dropped to $616m as reserves were drawn down to pay for imports and for interest and amortizations on loans. Portugal also holds 22 million ounces of gold in its reserves — which are valued at close to $9,000m at current market prices — for official purposes they are valued at $5,600m by the Portuguese; less than one tonne of gold is now held as pledges against Portugal's loans, due to their repayment on schedule.

In wages policy, the Government has endeavoured to bring down the target for wage awards from 23 per cent in 1980 to 16 per cent to 17.2 per cent in 1981 and has set a target of 14.75 per cent for this year, with a 2 per cent margin for increases in productivity. Lower wage rises have caused a marked worsening of the labour climate and strikes cost the country 70 million lost man-hours last year. A general strike on February 12 was called by Intersindical. The decline in wage rise targets is intended to contribute to the reduction of inflation, which fell from 24.2 per cent in 1979 to 14.4 per cent in 1980 — one of the major successes of Senhor Sa Carneiro's period of government — aided by the year's abundant crops and a revaluation of the escudo in February 1980. In the year to September 1981, consumer prices increased at a rate of 23.6 per cent, boosted by local cost increases, due to the effect of the drought on food prices (23.9 per cent) and higher energy and tax costs.

Agriculture a problem

The drought-related cuts in energy supplies to Portuguese companies have had their effect on output. This is consistent with the findings of an INE (National Statistical Institute) business survey conducted in the third quarter of 1981, which reported that the expectation of fewer export orders was also having a depressing effect. This reverses the trend between 1977 and 1980 when foreign demand for Portuguese products provided the market with buoyancy; now the converse is true. Industries producing intermediate goods appeared to be suffering most, with more than a third of respondents reporting over capacity for work in hand.

To double the rate of exports' increase to 7.5 per cent this year from 3.5 per cent in 1981, the authorities have announced that the crawling-peg devaluation of the escudo is to be speeded up from 0.5 per cent to 0.75 per cent a month. Last year the escudo lost 6.25 per cent against a basket of the currencies of Portugal's major trading partners. It lost 19.1 per cent and 18.3 per cent respectively against the Canadian and US dollars, 17 per cent against the Swiss franc and 14.4 per cent against the yen. On the other hand it gained 5.6 per cent against the Italian lira, 5.3 per cent on the South African rand and 2.8 per cent on the Swedish krona. As further aids to export growth, additional export incentives are planned and access to export credits for major local firms, guaranteed.

To help maintain demand, investments of 53,900m escudos by the public sector are planned for the year. Funds are earmarked for the Sines petrochemical and industrial complex and deep-water port, and an airport in Madeira, as well as for highways, agriculture aids and drought relief and education. After rises of 4 per cent and 3 per cent respectively in 1981, public and private consumption are both forecast to rise by only 2 per cent this year, as a result of the Government's 1982 austerity schemes. As part of the effort, a borrowing limit of $550m has been applied to foreign loans. Even this sum may not be raised as a result of the cutbacks in current and investment expenditure planned for 1982.

Agriculture remains an area of prime government concern, with its present level of productivity a major brake on development. As well as making drought aid available, official price support levels are being increased. The agrarian reform programme has had to be halted, but idle land is still liable to expropriation. In future, official support will be granted for new crops, including sugar, tobacco and cotton, as well as investments to improve marketing and technology.

Two other major challenges face the country in the economic arena this year: reform of the 1976 post-revolution constitution and accession to the EEC. Both have tempered policy-making since the Democratic Alliance took power after the December 1980 elections. To amend the constitution, the Democratic Alliance must obtain a two-thirds majority in the Assembly. A multi-party committee is working on amendments for debate, and the new legislation is expected to be passed by April 25. So far the committee has agreed measures to abolish the Council of the Revolution, a non-elected all-military body which has veto powers over the Government legislation. Progress on the vexed issue of denationalization of heavy industry and banking and insurance has been much slower. Senhor Pinto Balsemão, the Prime Minister, has stated that reform to the public sector aspects of the constitution will be within the realms of "the possible, rather than the justifiable".

Although the admission date for entry to the EEC has been postponed from 1983 to 1984, given the EEC's own budget and agricultural (CAP) problems, enthusiasm among Portugal's major political parties (except the Communists) remains high. The Portuguese are worried that delays in Spain's negotiations, especially on agriculture, will delay their own accession beyond January 1, 1984, and Senhor Pinto Balsemão has been pressing EEC heads of government to allow his country to sign the preliminary treaty towards the end of this year.

Even if Portugal should see its wish fulfilled, long transitional periods are expected for agriculture, fishing, textiles and the free movement of capital and labour. The community is providing 275 million units of account (EUA) as pre-accession finance (loans, 150 million EUA and grants, 125 million EUA) — 30 per cent below Portugal's original request — for investment in agricultural and regional development, roads and tourism projects, help for small and medium -scale industry and vocational training.

Michael Wooller

Where are the foreign investors?

Despite intensive government attempts in recent years to attract foreign investors to Portugal, overall results have not been highly successful.

While the percentage increase of direct foreign investment in 1981 rose by 49.4, it amounted to a mere 9,000m escudos (about £90m), and only 19 per cent of this went into new plant, a low figure for a country which must invest heavily to meet the challenge of entry to the European Economic Community.

Analysts believe that the slowness in investment recovery is not only due to a lack of confidence after the 1974 revolution and political instability, but also to the international recession, a slowdown in worldwide investment and continuing institutional conflict within Portugal.

However, the two-year-old right of centre Democratic Alliance coalition, determined to swing Portugal's orientation around 180° and become a full partner in the European Community, has moved to open investment doors as wide as possible.

It has defined 12 priority areas for foreign investment, including food processing, basic pharmaceuticals, and precision instruments and will give virtually automatic authorization in these areas, provided the project fulfils minimum objectives.

It has approved a new incentive system assessing investments by their performance, industrial priority and geographical location. Benefits can include nine-year tax holidays and exemption from, or reduction in, import duties. Large investors can also negotiate special conditions, including government grants and lower interest rates on bank loans.

Because of its cumbersome nature, the incentive scheme has not stimulated foreign investment as planned and it is now under revision. Coupled with this the Government is putting the finishing touches to a new packet of foreign investment measures, including alterations to the foreign investment code established in 1977, removing restrictive aspects.

An important planned reform here will be the liberalization of conditions for the repatriation of capital and dividends by foreign investors now conditioned by delays related to Portugal's balance of payments.

Two top priority areas to which the Government applies even more attractive investment incentives are the tourism industry and export-oriented enterprises. Investors in these sectors have privileged access to hard-to-get local credit (stringently controlled by credit ceilings set by the Central Bank) and other fiscal and financial perks.

Arab world investors have shown a certain positive response recently to these schemes and are moving into tourism projects. A Swiss-based Saudi group signed a $36.5m joint venture deal with the state-owned oil company Petrogal to build and operate two luxury hotels in Lisbon and Oporto.

Danish and Arab entrepreneurs are said to be on the verge of signing deals to open multi-million dollar tourist complexes of the Club Mediterranée type in different parts of the country.

These areas apart, foreign companies are also looking hard at Portugal as an export base both to the EEC and to the former Portuguese African colonies. Encouraging this trend, the Government is vigorously promoting its Sines industrial complex and harbour south of Lisbon.

This 41,000 hectare estate is graded for medium-sized projects aimed at export markets in the Middle East, Africa and the Mediterreanean. Sines administrators have hired an American research company to sell its facilities to potential North American investors. As a result, the Ford motor company retains its expressed interest in establishing a joint venture plant at Sines once the world car market swings upward again, and the giant Anaconda copper smelting company has been looking at facilities at Sines.

Nearby, the richest pyrite deposits in Western Europe are sparking much interest and attracting numbers of would be foreign investors. The Government is keen to ensure that this mineral wealth is turned into a value-added asset and is exploring deals to process the raw material locally and export finished products.

On the financial front many international banks have opened representative offices and parabanking organizations. The financiers are positioning themselves for the time when Portugal's highly — restrictive legislation on banking and insurance changes. So far the government has four times tried to alter the 1977 private and public sector law, governing these activities and which for ideological reasons prevents new private banks from opening here.

A Special Correspondent

هكذا من الأصل

FOCUS

General

After a period of authoritarian rule which culminated in a military coup in 1974, two years of political turmoil followed until the country was rescued from chaos by General Antonio Ramalho Eanes. He handed over the Government to civilian politicians and in 1980 a right of centre government was formed by the Democratic Alliance, a coalition of Social Democrats, Centre Democratic and Popular Monarchist parties. Senhor Francisco Sa Carneiro was elected Prime Minister and the country appeared to be on a more stable course but Senhor Sa Carneiro was killed in an air crash in December 1980. A new government was formed with Senhor Francisco Pinto Balsemão as Prime Minister, who later appeared to be on a collision course with the re-elected President, General Eanes, over revision of the constitution. Senhor Pinto Balsemão's Democratic Alliance won 47.10 per cent of the votes in the 1980 general elections, and in the unlikely event of the Socialist parties improving their opposition, the present Government should remain in power until 1984.

The Government's main task now is to restructure the economy and to prepare Portugal's accession to the EEC, also planned for 1984.

Head of State



President of the Republic, General António Ramalho Eanes

The Government

Prime Minister,
Senhor Francisco Pinto Balsemão
Assistant Prime Minister,
Senhor Fernando do Amaral
Vice-Prime Minister and Defence,
Senhor Diogo Freitas do Amaral
Quality of Life,
Senhor Gonçalo Ribeiro Teles
Finance and Planning,
Senhor João Salgueiro
Interior
Senhor Angelo Correia
Foreign Affairs,
Senhor André Gonçalves Pereira
Justice,
Senhor José Menéres Pimentel
Education,
Senhor Vitor Pereira Crespo
Labour,
Senhor António Queirós Martins
Social Affairs,
Senhor Luís Barbosa
Agriculture, Commerce and Fishing,
Senhor Basílio Horta
Industry, energy and exports
Senhor Ricardo Bayão Horta
Culture and science,
Senhor Francisco Lucas Pires
Housing, public works and transport,
Senhor José Viana Baptista

Main ministries and government offices

Interior
Praça Comércio, 1100 Lisbon.
Telephone 364521; telex 16765 GBMAI P; fgn dept, telex 18791 DSECEN P
Agriculture
Praça Comércio, 1100 Lisbon.
Telephone 366449; telex 13517 MAP P
Communications
Praça Restauradores, 1200 Lisbon.
Telephone 362531; telex 12562 MCSNOT P
Commerce and Tourism
Avenida República 79, 1094 Lisbon.
Telephone 321909; telex 13455 COMINT P
Education
Avenida 5 Outubro 107, 1000 Lisbon.
Telephone 778793; telex 18428 EDUCA P
Finance
Avenida Inf, D.H. Henrique, 1100 Lisbon.
Telephone 366555; telex 12143 MINFINP
Housing
Rua Castilho 50, 1200 Lisbon.
Telephone 368851; telex 13461 MHUC P
Industry
Rua Horta Seca 15, 1200 Lisbon.
Telephone 327391; telex 13462 MITLEX P
Navy
Praça Comércio, 1100 Lisbon.
Telephone 368960; telex 12587 CENCOM P
Foreign
Largo Rilvas, 1354 Lisbon.
Telephone 672818; telex 12276 ETRAN P
Planning
Rua Prof. Gomes Teixeira 7, 1300 Lisbon.
Telephone 365438; telex 13615 MPLANO P
Labour
Rua Londres 2, 1300 Lisbon.
Telephone 802010; telex 16704 MTRA P
Transport
Rua Pretas 8, 1100 Lisbon.
Telephone 573517; telex 12251 MINCOM P

The political parties

AD – Democratic Alliance

PSD – Social Democratic Party
CDS – Centre Democratic Party
PPM – People's Monarchist Party

APU – United People's Alliance

MDP/CDE – People's Democratic Movement
PCP – Portuguese Communist Party
FRS – Republican and Socialist Front
PS – Socialist Party
UESD – Union of the Socialist and Democratic Left
ASDA – Association of Independent Social Democrats

UDP – People's Democratic Union

Public holidays 1982

April 9	Good Friday
25	Armed Forces Day
May 1	Labour Day
June 10	Camós Day National Day
13	St Anthony (only Lisbon)
24	St John (only Oporto)
August 15	Assumption of Our Lady
October 5	Republic Day
November 1	All Saints Day
December 1	Independence Day
8	Immaculate Conception
24/25	Christmas

Business hours

Commercial offices:
09.00-13.00, 15.00-19.00; or 09.00-19.30; Saturday 09.00-13.00.
Banks:
09.00-12.00, 13.00-14.30; Saturday closed.
Government offices:
09.30-12.30, 14.30-18.00 Monday and Tuesday.
09.30-12.30, 14.30-17.30 Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.
Shops:
9.00-13.00, 15.00-19.00; or 09.30-19.30 Monday to Friday.
09.00-13.00 Saturday.

Passports

For a stay not exceeding 60 days a visa is not required by visitors holding valid British passports.

Currency

The unit of currency is the escudo which is divided into 100 centavos. The escudo sign $ comes between the number of escudos and centavos.
Rate of exchange:
£1 = 128 escudos

Embassies

British Embassy
(Commercial Dept.),
Rua de S. Domingos à Lapa 35-39,
1296 Lisbon.
Telephone: 661191 Telex: 12278

Portuguese Embassy,
Trade Office,
Portland House,
Stag Place,
London SW1E 5BH

Useful addresses

British-Portuguese Chamber of Commerce,
PO Box 2190,
8 Rua da Estrela,
Lisbon 2.
Telephone: 66 15 86

International Chamber of Commerce and Associação Commercial de Lisboa,
89 Rua das Portas de Santo Antão,
1100 Lisbon.

Associação Commercial do Porto,
Palacio da Bolsa,
4000 Oporto.

Confederacão do Comércio Português,
Av. Elias Garcia 59,
1000 Lisbon.

Exports to Britain

	1978 Tonnes	1978 £'000	1979 Tonnes	1979 £'000	1980 Tonnes	1980 £'000
Livestock/meat	973	147	186	71	167	123
Vegetables	5,199	2,401	9,473	2,426	13,143	2,912
Fats and Oils	11	26	1,324	332	394	120
Sardines, anchovies and tomatoes	11,690	6,393	18,041	7,919	19,614	8,308
Port, madeira, etc	16,127	13,428	18,496	16,381	14,978	16,611
Mineral products	67,752	5,367	256,538	19,062	124,033	14,224
Chemicals	24,589	5,211	25,213	3,595	24,450	5,994
Plastics	1,208	1,503	2,753	3,196	2,137	3,076
Leather and hides	259	717	507	1,377	317	1,277
Wood/Cork	364,848	35,959	483,355	450,935	410,790	49,289
Paper and board	106,068	17,066	106,364	19,399	112,779	23,639
Textiles	43,086	118,706	49,056	157,938	37,406	145,770
Footwear	2,938	7,420	4,078	13,403	3,249	12,063
Ceramics	22,472	4,659	22,470	16,418	26,210	7,856
Jewellery/stones	0	389	0	560	0	480
Metal products	5,485	3,384	10,807	5,167	10,635	6,237
Electric machinery	2,797	21,204	2,742	19,467	2,974	20,387
Transport equipment	12,125	4,959	1,674	3,037	2,441	4,780
Electronics	346	2,553	622	2,822	459	2,904
Arms	2	15	0	4	2	7
Furniture	235	552	506	1,403	277	772
Arts	7	1,023	36	312	72	259
Mail orders	—	345	11	1,362	18	463
Other	—	2,324	—	1,624	—	7,351
Total	685,040	256,221	1,015,098	338,337	807,849	335,112

Imports from Britain

	1978 Tonnes	1978 £'000	1979 Tonnes	1979 £'000	1980 Tonnes	1980 £'000
Livestock/meat	4,112	2,259	678	1,444	2,283	2,266
Animal products	18,948	2,709	15,118	2,400	35,618	5,639
Fats and oils	1,090	528	993	515	1,095	639
Sugar	3	1	26	8	13,760	3,448
Whisky	1,669	2,176	2,007	2,873	2,190	3,678
Mineral products	262,188	19,620	234,767	22,356	184,841	32,447
Wood/cork	583	168	215	194	666	273
Paper and pulp	2,236	2,253	2,597	2,862	7,519	4,507
Textiles	8,438	14,875	8,609	16,409	10,486	20,402
Footwear	22	82	8	47	51	212
Ceramics	3,093	3,097	4,728	2,645	3,732	3,840
Jewellery/stones	4	1,203	4	4,4,175	5	5,741
Metal products	81,794	22,157	48,084	24,284	69,452	26,696
Elec. machinery	17,522	52,001	15,783	50,580	21,942	77,513
Transport equip.	52,921	86,104	52,208	96,625	51,514	104,234
Electronic etc.	471	5,874	516	6,492	626	8,511
Furniture	463	1,796	472	1,864	543	2,233
Arts	3	72	3	84	2	70
Mail orders	—	—	—	773	—	79
Other	—	22,629	—	22,859	—	25,771
Total	573,690	286,325	443,056	307,666	488,561	389,848

Source: INE

Trade Balance ($US millions)

	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981*	
Exports, fob	1,940	1,790	2,001	2,379	3,550	4,616	121.33	(Esc.bn)
Imports, fob	3,614	3,965	4,533	4,787	6,182	8,667	171.91	" "
balance	–1,674	–2,175	–2,532	–2,408	–2,632	–4,051	–50.57	" "

Source: OECD and IMF *January-June

Price Indices

	1978	1979	1980	1981*
Wholesale (1963=100)	524	602	638	—
Cost of Living %	25.7	23.6	14.9	25

Source: BOLSA. *estimate.

Population

	'000
1975	8,879
1978	9,196
1979	9,324
1980	9,395

Unemployment

	% of labour force
1978	8.2
1979	8.2
1980	7.8

Labour force – 1980

Main sectors	'000	% change from 1979
Agriculture	1,082	–4.8
Industry	1,071	2.1
Construction	372	13.8
Services	1,430	4.6

Main trading partners: 1981 (January-September)

Country	Imports (Escudos millions)	Exports (Escudos millions)
Total, all countries	421,917	82,279
EEC: total	158,497	96,590
W. Germany	43,968	21,890
Belgium	10,069	4,590
Denmark	1,867	2,847
France	32,000	23,000
Netherlands	12,179	8,279
Ireland	1,135	754
Italy	22,250	7,872
U.K.	34,730	26,562
Greece	267	769
Rest of the world:		
Africa	25,394	22,808
N. America	66,948	14,780
Latin America	22,265	3,367
Asia	88,251	7,790
Middle East	67,040	4,003

Source: INE

Gross National Product

	Esc. Bn
1977	617.4
1978	765.8
1979	973.1
1980	1,174.9

Gross Domestic Product

	Esc. Bn	% growth
1977	624.2	5.4
1978	780.3	3.4
1979	994.4	4.5
1980	1,205.3	5.5
1981*	1,626.7	3.5*
1982*	2,114.7	3*

Source: IMF, Bank of Portugal, Central Planning Dept. and others.
*estimate.

Gold reserves

	$US million
1976	27.67
1977	24.11
1978	22.13
1979	22.13
1980	22.17
1981 (Sept.)	22.16

Source: IMF and OECD.

Total external debt

	$US billion
1976	2.9
1977	4.4
1978	5.4
1979	6.6
1980	7.7

Main exports by products

Product	Per cent
Textiles	32
Wood – cork	16
Agricultural	15
Machinery	14
Other	23

Tourism

		Arrivals registered
1981**		6,392,311
1980		6,977,045
1979		5,287,352
1978		3,389,252
		Bed nights
1981**	total	5,584,000
	Britain	983,000
	W. Germany	492,000
	Spain	290,000
	France	220,000
1980		14,095,000
1979***		13,197,000

*January-October
**January-June
***January-November

won England Spurs, Rowe admits that his "push game at a stroke. That's what we as centre half and the game has been his life. His memories and about it matched later by Bobby Charlton

DEFENCE

Iberian joint command versus history

The Portuguese Government has publicly promised it will do everything in its power too see that Spain's application to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization this year is quickly ratified by Parliament. But it remains deeply preoccupied about the effects for Portugal's national interests of the integration of its more powerful Iberian partner into the Western defence alliance.

Negotiations over the delineation of the existing Nato commands to take care of Spain's future role have yet to start in Brussels but they will have to take extreme care of Portuguese historic sensitivities. The Portuguese do not want a single soldier, sailor, or even airman of theirs under any Spanish commanders. This remains the message to Nato's Brussels headquarters even after a series of attempts by the United States and Spain to give Lisbon guarantees and assurances through diplomatic channels.

The Nato issue has been complicated by suspicion between Madrid and Lisbon over the Portuguese Government's latest campaign, started with the Prime Minister's visit to Brussels last month, to join the European Community by January 1 1984, regardless of what happens about Spanish entry. The poor personal relations between the two countries' Prime Ministers, Senhor Francisco Pinto Balsemão and Señor Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo, in spite of two carefully-arranged meetings within a few months, do not help.

Within days of the Spanish Cabinet deciding to seek Parliamentary approval last autumn to apply to join Nato, Professor Freitas do Amaral, Portugal's Defence Minister, rejected the speculation which had surfaced in Madrid of a unified Iberian land commander under Spanish commanders. He spoke of "safeguarding Portugal's national independence."

Senhor Mário Soares, the Opposition leader and former Socialist Prime Minister, subsequently took an equally firm line over a land command, referring identically to respecting Portugal's independence.

The Defence Minister argued that Portugal's essential role under Nato lay in the Atlantic, whereas Spain's was towards the Mediterranean and Central Europe. He proposed creating for the peninsula two completely distinct geostrategic zones.

But in fact Portugal has to accept that Spain has an Atlantic role as well, based on the Canary Islands, even if Lisbon tries simply to ignore Spain's naval stations at El Ferrol and Cadiz.

While a joint air command would make obvious defence sense to Nato, and could perhaps be a long-term goal, the pressing issues are the present Iberlant command, based on Oeiras, just outside Lisbon, and responsible to Norfolk, Virginia, and the probable creation of a Spanish-officered new command under Nato stretching from the Canaries, through the straits of Gibraltar, to the Balearics.

From next September Nato has agreed to a Portuguese admiral taking over from the first time from an American at Iberlant. But this Atlantic command does not at present include Portugal's Azores, where the Americans have one of their vital defence staging posts, the Lajes base. Its significance has grown of recent years and the United States Navy is about to expand facilities there considerably.

In Portuguese eyes it would be politically impossible for Nato to accord Spain a major defence role in the alliance from the Canaries to the Balearics without including the Azores in the Iberlant command.

As Spain draws politically closer to Nato, as in the Nato countries' top level consultations over Poland at the European Security Review conference in Madrid earlier this month, every step is watched hawk-eyed by the Portuguese. Mr Alexander Haig, the United States Secretary of State, had, after attending the Madrid conference, to visit Lisbon to enable the Portuguese to repeat demands for guarantees on their Nato role in exchange for continued bilateral use of important defence facilities.

Portugal's other important contribution to Western interests, combatting Communist penetration, lies through its links with Africa, especially its two major former colonies, Mozambique and Angola. President Eanes, accompanied by Senhor André Gonçalves Pereira, the Foreign Minister, paid a state visit to Maputo (formerly Lourenço Marques) in November; an act of reconciliation with the Frelimo regime six years after independence as significant as the one paid on a similar errand by President Mitterrand to Algeria.

The Portuguese President got an enthusiastic popular welcome. He laid a wreath on the tomb of the revolutionary heroes and visited the Cabora Bassa hydro electric scheme, near Tete, begun before the 1974 revolution, never nationalized; and with 80 per cent of the capital still Portuguese. With him went representatives of about 30 Portuguese concerns who found an almost desperate desire for development assistance and for the return of skills withdrawn precipitately at independence.

Portugal's own weak economic performance means, however, that its trade is less important in the Portuguese-speaking former colonies than Brazil's.

The continued warring in Angola, with South African and Soviet-backed Cuban involvement, makes a similar Portuguese mediating role less easy. At his new year meeting in Lisbon with diplomats, President Eanes emphasized Portugal's view that Namibia must first achieve its independence before there can be peace in southern Africa. Portugal's inability to do anything about the wretched fate of East Timor, invaded by the Indonesian Army and incorporated subsequently, was emphasized by the revelations of last autumn, damaging the reputations in the historic decolonization process of both politicians and soldiers. Officially Portugal still seeks self-determination for the people of East Timor.

Richard Wigg



TOURISM

Faithful return despite recession

For the Portuguese economy tourism becomes more important every year, and first figures available for 1981 show that the total of all visitors entering the country reached 7,277,000, an increase of more than 4 per cent. The number of those who stayed at least one night increased by 8.7 per cent and the total of "bed nights", as hotel occupancy is registered, reached nearly 29,500,000 — a 4.7 per cent increase.

In view of general world recession the Portuguese have good reason to be happy, for revenue from tourism accounts for between 5 per cent and 6 per cent of the gnp. The highest foreign currency revenue is from remittances by emigrants living abroad, which on average is more than twice the tourism total. Details of the latter are not yet published for last year, but in 1980 the Central Bank received a total of $1,148m.

The tourist industry and its ancillary activities are estimated to give employment to between 200,000 and 250,000 people, but there is also further profit from tourist spending, for example in shops and restaurants.

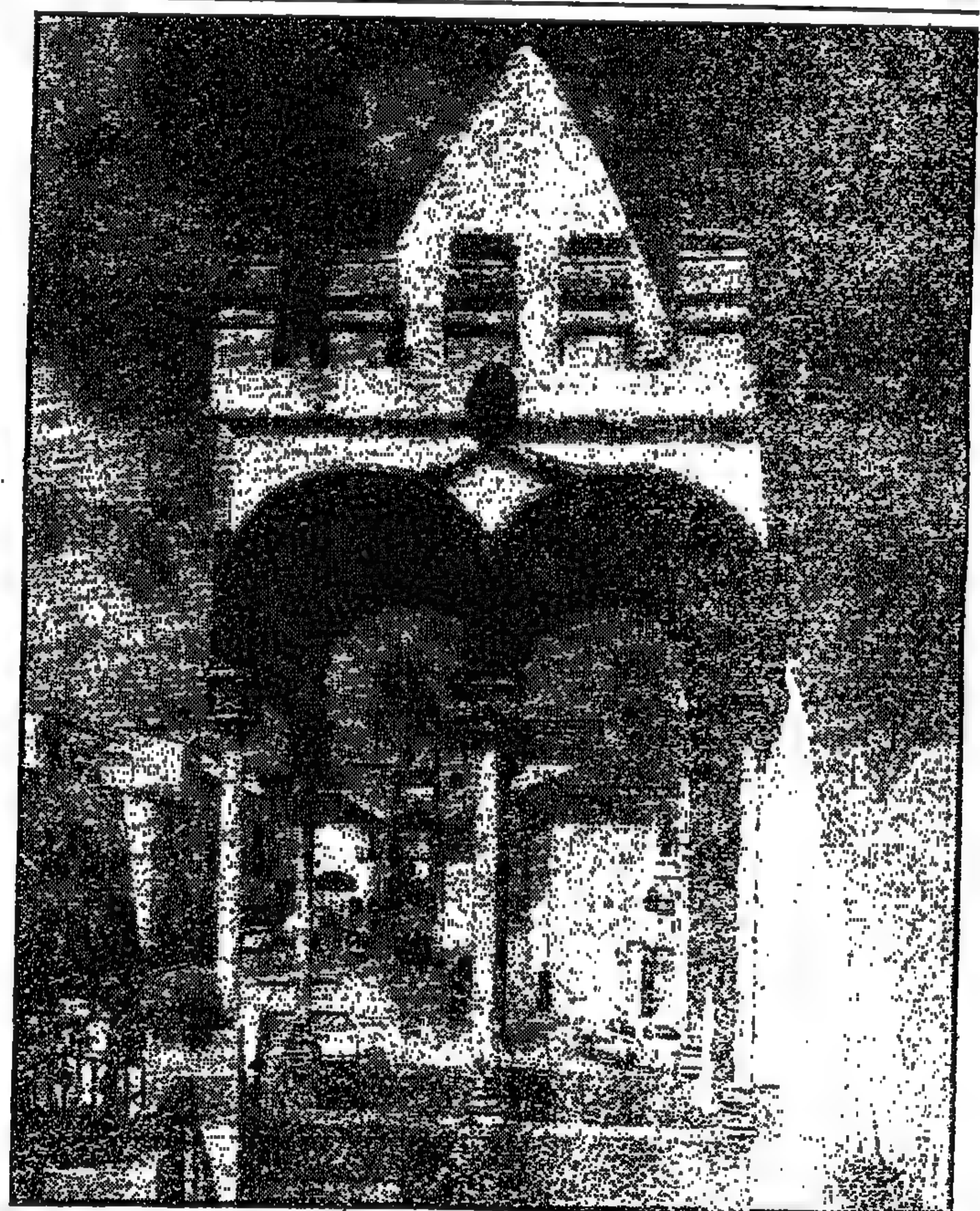
Senhor Manuel da Rocha, director of planning and research at the Portuguese National Tourist Office in Lisbon, said: "We cannot calculate average spending by each nationality, but only learn from the bank the amount of currency which is exchanged."

To help their analysis the Tourist Office made a sample survey by handing short questionnaires every four days to visitors arriving at all customs points. Since last September they have also used a market research firm to interview tourists at borders and in hotels for their views on holidays in Portugal and how they spend their money.

The most valuable market is represented by the Spaniards. The total of those who entered Portugal in 1981 rose by 3.5 per cent to 5,200,000, but this figure includes many excursionists.

"We get every kind of visitor, from the most modest family parties to the very rich who stay in our five-star hotels", said Senhor da Rocha. The total of the Spaniards who used hotels in 1981 reached more than 1,200,000, and was up over 11 per cent on 1980. But statistics giving particular pleasure to the Portuguese show that 548,000 British visitors entered the country in 1981, an increase of 13 per cent over 1980. Of these, 425,000 stayed in hotels, nearly 15 per cent more than in 1980. "Of course, your pound is very strong against our escudo, which is a great attraction to British visitors", says Senhor da Rocha.

The majority of Britons show first preference for the balmy climate with most going to the Algarve, which has the largest concentration of hotels, villas and apartments. Next preference is for Madeira, then the coastal resorts around Lisbon, with a small minority going to the northern Costa Verde.



Evora, in the Alentejo, has a fine *pousada*, one of the government-owned hotels and inns which are an attraction for travellers in Portugal.

The importance of the British market was emphasized by Senhor Mário Felix, public relations director of Air Portugal, the national airline. "From this Spring we shall operate a record number of 24 flights a week from Britain, and will inaugurate the first Oporto-Manchester route." Britons disgruntled for many years, and justifiably, at the absence of duty-free shops in all Portuguese airports except Lisbon, will be glad to hear that plans are advanced for them to open first at Oporto, then Faro in the Algarve and Madeira. Unfortunately the opening of these shops is not within the airline's control", said Senhor Felix.

The director-general of the Portuguese National Tourist Office in Lisbon, Senhor Cristiano da Freitas, told me: "We feel very good about prospects and expect at least a 7 per cent increase in tourism this year, and our hoteliers on the whole seem happy." The Portuguese plan to tap new markets by opening an office soon in South Africa and possibly another in Japan. With a total of 160,000 hotel beds (including 11,000 in Madeira) their eventual target is a further 25,000 beds by 1986.

"Obviously we cannot, and do not wish to, compete with Spain. They have three million beds, or look to the cheaper end of the market." After the British, West Germans are the next most important tourist nationality, numbering more than 300,000 last year, which showed a small increase. Obviously the Germans take their recession more seriously than the more impoverished Britons. Hoteliers often observe that they are normally less generous spenders too, especially in the bar. The United States comes next in the league and their total of over 141,000 showed an increase of 4.6 per cent.

Britons who are faithful and regular visitors to the Algarve are often distressed about haphazard development, too many multi-storey apartment blocks, and the failure of public services, especially water supplies, sewerage and roads to keep pace with it. Senhor de Freitas, appeared very optimistic about a new government aid plan to deal with these problems, saying: "There are 70 projects on this subject on the books". On uncontrolled development, he pointed out that permission for construction of holiday apartments, unlike hotels, which must be government approved, is in the hands of local authorities, and there is so much demand for this kind of accommodation that they may permit any profitable enterprises.

New accent on sport

Among new promotional campaigns by the Portuguese is the curiously-named "Sportugal", which aims to attract both the highly-profitable conference market and tourists to enjoy the wide range of sporting facilities available, especially in the mild winters. Golf comes first; there are 10 world-class courses, the best being near Lisbon and in the Algarve.

Apart from tennis, sailing, river or deep-sea fishing and riding, either in the mountains or on the long sandy beaches, they will offer wild boar hunting in the mountains of the north. One of the newest tour operators on the British market is Caravela, a subsidiary of Air Portugal whose first winter programme includes tours to the *pousadas* — government-owned hotels and inns, often in beautifully converted castles, palaces or monasteries, often far off the main tourist track. They start from as little as £115 including the flight, accommodation and car hire for three days, based in the north, to about £260 for 13 nights in the south.

In Madeira I talked to the retiring head of the local tourist board, Senhor Jose Ribeiro de Andrade. "We had a phenomenal rise in the number of British tourists in the last few years with a record increase of about 20 per cent in 1980, and we are rather sad that this dropped by 16 per cent last year." Analysing it, he said: "Apart from the obvious effects of your recession we think our image in Britain needs changing—many people expect to find Madeira full of retired colonels and elderly widows, which is not so, for of course many of our very old regular clients are dying off." So the Madeirans have launched a vigorous advertising campaign in Britain to extol more exciting holidays than the sunworshipper might expect with deep-sea fishing and mountaineering among the attractions.

I understand that the long-awaited extension to the runway at Madeira's airport is likely to be under way by the end of this year. This will take the wide-bodied jets which have been unable to land there.

Joyce Rackham

صرف تسليم الاجل

SOCIETY

Choppy going as revolution moves out of backwater

Portugal's political revolution of 1974 has been followed by a slowly evolving social revolution the effects of which are proving even more profound than the political ones.

Portugal had long drowsed in the social and economic backwaters of European development. Many of its rural areas had no electricity, running water, roads, or medical services. Workers were poorly paid and were denied the right to do anything about it by forming genuine trade unions. Women had few legal rights.

The vast majority of the population had no access to the vote to defend their interests. Censorship was strict in the news media and the arts. Social benefits were miserly. Only a few could afford an education. Millions of workers emigrated to northern Europe and Africa for jobs.

In today's changing Portugal rural isolation is diminishing. Television has let in the outside world. With more money in their pockets, farmers are more and more inclined to travel outside their villages. But, at the same time, this outlook has made the young people seek a better life outside their villages. They crowd into the big cities of Lisbon and Oporto looking for jobs, but jobs are scarce. Often they are forced to turn to petty crime or prostitution.

Worker's wages on the whole have risen by over 300 per cent in the past eight years. They are joined now in strong unions which, through strikes, have forced owners to meet their demands. New labour laws say they cannot be fired. Some workers are acually running factories they took over from owners. But in spite of their higher salaries, their buying power has diminished. A steady 25 per cent inflation has erased their benefits.

The rise of the dollar has nearly wrecked the economy. The cost of living has rocketed. One pound of beef costs five times its price in pre-revolutionary Portugal. Potatoes and other vegetables cost ten times what they did. There are sometimes shortages of staples like milk, making housewives stand in long queues to buy.

Constant strikes and other labour agitation has brought down production and frightened away potential investors, which has contributed to unemployment.

Under Portugal's new constitution, women have equal rights. All professions, including that of judge, have been opened to them. They are to receive equal work. Divorce has been made easy. In practice things have not really changed very much — especially in the countryside. Man still gets the best jobs and is master in the home. Wife beating is still a common phenomenon. Women — along with young people seeking their first jobs — have the greatest number of unemployed. The tight family structure that existed has somewhat broken down. The number of divorces has increased spectacularly.

When the right to vote was extended to everyone, including 18-year-olds, and political parties were formed, there was general rejoicing at the new found freedom and hope that the elected government would bring about an economic and social miracle. However, eight years and 14 governments later, disillusionment with politics and politicians has set in. A large segment of the population has become apathetic or highly critical of the system — a condition which is disturbing to those who want to see a lasting democratic system survive in Portugal.

A surge of creativity

After censorship was lifted, there followed a surge of creativity. Many new experimental theatres opened, and newspapers and magazines of every political and artistic tendency found their way onto the stands. At the same time, the new freedom brought in a wave of previously banned films and pornography. A new mentality was created. People felt they were free to do what they liked. Senhor João Vaz Serra da Moura, secretary of state in the Ministry for the Quality of Life said: "It changed the life of the people; it is a new morality".

After the revolution, the police were forced to be less repressive, and the secret police were disbanded. This in itself was good, but it had the effect of leaving the country vulnerable. International drug rings have used Portugal as a clearing house for drugs. The use of drugs — even in schools and country districts — has become a problem. The police also have had to contend with a rise in violent crime, largely related to the great number of weapons distributed during the Revolution or brought back from the African wars. Lisbon and its suburbs are no longer the safe places they were a few years ago.

After the Revolution, masses of people flocked to get an education. The number of students rose from 200,000 to 1,200,000. The schools could not hold them all. For example, a secondary school in the working class suburb of Amadora near Lisbon was built for 1,200. It now has 20,000 enrolled. The students attend in shifts between seven in the morning and midnight. Text books are scarce, teachers are often absent and classes are held in halls, libraries and any other available space. Students spend their free periods in the street.

Discipline has broken down because of this and because the authoritarian system was abandoned. Schools are now run by commissions of students, teachers and administrators. "There are problems, but they are being overcome. It is an education in democracy", one teacher said.

For the first time in its history Lisbon University has had to institute a rigid selection policy because of the high number of applicants. New universities have been opened in the provinces and new schools are being built with money from the Council of Europe. It has been a problem, however, to get competent teachers to go into the hinterland. Standards have had to be lowered.

Housing is the greatest shortage. People have no money to build their own homes and the Government has none to build them for them. However, the Government is making an effort to solve the shortage. Senhor Vaz Serra da Moura said: "We are trying to get private constructors to build for rental. All houses belonging to the state are being sold cheap to renters and the proceeds used to build new houses."

The lack of housing is causing social problems and causing more and more shanty towns to grow up around the cities. There is a large concentration of people in the overcrowded cities on the coast, so the Government is launching a campaign to develop the interior of the country to lure them back inland.

Portugal's hospitals are old, ill-equipped and overcrowded. Until recently there were few medical facilities outside the cities. Portugal ranks with Greece and Turkey in health and infant mortality rates. Two new hospitals are due to be built in Lisbon by 1984, and many small ones have been built around the country, but they are standing empty because of a lack of doctors. Portugal has the same ratio of doctors in the population as the rest of Europe, but they do not want to leave Lisbon and Oporto.

Big untaxed incomes

Government doctors are very poorly paid, but some in private practice have fabulous incomes — mostly untaxed. The public health system is a shambles and is racked by corruption. For every two active workers there is one retired or an invalid. A government doctor said the ratio everywhere else was six to one. These 'invalids' collect from the Government and go on working. Recent regulations have been enacted to stop the abuses, but have brought strong protests from patients and from pharmaceutical companies which also benefit from present practices.

Another factor which has had a strong social impact was the return of nearly one million people from Portugal's former African territories. Besides the returning Portuguese there were people of many races and cultures, who have brought new life styles. There are Indian shops, new restaurants, hamburger houses, and many new small and medium-sized industries. Small African villages have grown up around Lisbon.

According to statistics. Portugal is very poor, and unemployment is very high, but the figures are somewhat deceptive. There is an "underground economy" providing plenty of money for a stratum of the population.

Martha de la Cal

WOMEN

The male-dominated bastions fall

President Ramalho Eanes of Portugal opens his speeches to the nation with the words: "Portugueses . . . Portuguesas" — Men of Portugal, women of Portugal. He is aware of the increasing importance of Portuguese women in the life of their country and its public affairs. His wife, Dona Manuela, plays a prominent part in public life, not only in the obviously presidential charity activities, but in specific aid to her husband in his public duties.

It was calculated that in the last Portuguese general election in 1979 about 52 per cent of the votes came from women out of a total of about seven million voters.

Yes, women are now an openly powerful influence in Portuguese life, They have stormed the professions. They wield considerable influence in politics, and have broken down the barriers of the male-defended areas of public life. Senhora Maria de Lourdes Pintassilgo became Portugal's first woman prime minister and another barrier fell. In this century, among other outstanding professional pioneers has been the internationally famous bull fighter Conchita Cintron, who combined womanly grace with outstanding toughness in the arena. Later she became a happy wife and mother.

An important labour-overseeing organization here, the Commission for Equality in Labour and Employment, recently issued an explanatory pamphlet on the 1979 law of equality for women in the labour market. It is entitled "women's rights to equality in work and employment". The pamphlet emphasizes the September, 1979 law on equality in work between men and women, which was designed to protect women from discrimination in employment on the grounds of their sex and guaranteed them access to the law courts and protection from sanctions if they took their cases to the courts. The commission defines the areas of discrimination training, salaries, promotion, general working conditions and proper knowledge of their legal labour rights. It also defines as illegal any refusal to employ a woman before she is married or has children, or to dismiss her if she becomes pregnant. The only employment which she may rightfully be refused is, according to the commission, "that by which her genetic function as a woman may be affected".

The commission is formed of five government representatives, two of whom are chosen from the Ministry of Labour and two from the Women's Rights Commission, with three trade union representatives and three representing the employers.

There are 22 women members in Portugal's present Chamber of Deputies and, shades of Dr Salazar, Senhora Lourdes Pintassilgo proved to be a lively and industrious figure as one of his later successors as prime minister. Of the women MPs eight belong to the governing Social Democratic Party of Prime Minister, Senhor Pinto Balsemão. The Communist Party also has eight women MPs, but the Socialists and Christian Democrats have only two women members.

The Portuguese National Assembly has a Parliamentary Commission on the Status of Women, but this is considered by feminists to be somewhat inactive. The same thing may be said from the feminist point of view of Portugal's county councils, for out of 305 only four of them have women presidents, and there are only six women judges in the country out of a total of 515.

In 1911 a widowed woman doctor, the head of her family, turned up at the polls and voted. Her claim was that by law only the head of the family could vote and she was the head of the family. The law was then changed emphasizing that this applied only to the male sex. A woman head of the family still could not vote. In 1931, however, women with higher or secondary education were legally allowed to vote, while all males who were of voting age could do so. Last October the Portuguese Parliament passed the latest law against sex discrimination dealing with naturalization of children born both in or outside marriage.

All these improvements do not, of course, mean that the women of Portugal have total equality with men all over the land. The first battle has been won however, and women's education has been improved in concept, fitting them for the wider role the modern woman must play.

The fighting team for women's rights today is basically the Commission for Equality in Work and Employment, and it provides the quiet and efficient spade work to uproot the traditional male outlook on women's role in the civilization of this century.

Jose Shercliff

Stock Exchange Prices

Wall Street hits equities

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Feb 15. Dealings End, Feb 26. § Contango Day, Mar 1. Settlement Day, Mar 8.

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days



BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS

MEDIUMS

LONGS

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

DOLLAR STOCKS

BANKS AND DISCOUNTS

BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL

A—B

C—E

F—H

I—L

M—N

O—S

T—Z

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

INSURANCE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

SHIPPING

MINES

OIL

PROPERTY

RUBBER

TEA

1981/82 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
213	178	Assam Frontier	208		14.3	6.9	
465	415	Camellia Inv	465		7.1	1.5	
380	230	McLeod Russel	370	−2	11.8	3.2	
153	132	Do 8.4% Cnv Pf	140		12.0	8.6	
295	255	Moran	284		7.1	2.5	
138	93	Surmah Valley	128		1.4	1.1	

MISCELLANEOUS

1981/82 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
46	27½	Calcutta Elec	41	•	8.8	21.4	
34½	29	Essex Wtr 3.5%	£32	• +1	500	15.6	
34	20	Gt Nthn Tele	£32½	+½	150	4.6	12.2
265	150	Imp Cont Gas	193	−2	11.9	6.1	12.2
158	93	Milford Docks	151	−5	0.7	0.5	..
191	122	Nesco Inv	135		10.0	7.4	
35	28½	Sunderlnd Wtr	£33½	+½	500	14.9	

• Ex dividend. a Ex all. b Forecast dividend. c Corrected price. e Interim payment passed. f Price at suspension. g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment. h Bid for company. k Pre-merger figures. n Forecast earnings. p Ex capital distribution. r Ex rights. s Ex scrip or share split. t Tax free. y Price adjusted for late dealings. .. No significant data.

RECENT ISSUES

	Closing Price
A and G Sec Elect 5p Ord (80a)	80
Baillie Gifford Japan Trust 25p Ord (100)	95
City Site 25p Ord (35a)	30
Computer and Systems Eng 20p Ord (225)	345−3
Cussins Property Group 20p Ord (82)	85
Equipu 10p Ord (80a)	84
Exchequer 13¼% 'A' 1987 (‡)	£21¼−¼
Good Relations Group 10p Ord (61a)	74
Hardanger Properties 10p Ord (100a)	104−3
Hayters £1 Ord (150a)	160
Moray Firth Exp	105
Newmarket Co (1981) Ltd $0.05 (£3.05)	264−1
Nimslo Int $0.20 Ord ($4.25a)	227−3
Owners Abroad 10p Ord (10a)	20½−½
Peek Holdings 7p Ord	13½
Saxon Oil 50p Ord (12½p paid)	46−2
Speyhawk 10p Ord (115)	132
Television South West 5p Ord	15
Treasury 3% 1987	£65
Treasury 2½% Index Linked 2011 (†‡)	£35½

RIGHTS ISSUES	Latest date of renun	
Lovell Y. J. (220a)	Mar 26	40 prem−1
Smith St. Aubyn (25‡)	Mar 19	13 prem−1

Issue price in parentheses. • Ex dividend. † Issued by tender. ‡ Nil paid. a unlisted securities market. b £10 paid. f fully paid. g £40 paid. h £50 paid. i £35 paid. j £20 paid. k Issued in units of sixteen shares and £5 nominal loan stock at £9 per unit.

Sterling: Spot and Forward

	Market rates (day's range) February 23	Market rates (close) February 23	1 month	3 months
New York	$1.8300-1.8440	$1.8310-1.8320	0.03-0.13c disc	0.42-0.52c disc
Montreal	$2.2340-2.2460	$2.2345-2.2355	par-0.10c disc	0.45-0.55c disc
Amsterdam	4.74-4.78fl	4.76-4.77fl	1½-1¼c prem	4¼-4c prem
Brussels	79.10-79.80f	79.20-79.30f	par-20c disc	15-30c disc
Copenhagen	14.48-14.55k	14.52-14.53k	75-165ore disc	445-580ore disc
Dublin	1.2270-1.2350p	1.2315-1.2335p	30-55p disc	125-150p disc
Frankfurt	4.33-4.36m	4.34-4.35m	1½-1¼pf prem	4¼-3¾pf prem
Lisbon	126.50-127.75e	126.75-127.05e	50-160c disc	135-390c disc
Madrid	187.00-188.50p	187.15-187.35p	15-40c disc	75-105c disc
Milan	2323-2333lr	2328-2330lr	12½-15½lr disc	41½-44½lr disc
Oslo	10.96-11.03k	10.98-10.99k	160-75ore prem	65 prem-25ore disc
Paris	11.04-11.09f	11.04-11.05f	½-1½c disc	4½-5½c disc
Stockholm	10.53-10.61k	10.55-10.56k	90-30ore prem	315-255ore prem
Tokyo	427-433y	429½-430½y	290-350y prem	810-765y prem
Vienna	30.35-30.55sch	30.37-30.42sch	15-11gro prem	38-31gro prem
Zurich	3.43-3.46½f	3.43½-3.44½f	1¾-1¼c prem	4¾-4½c prem

Effective exchange rate compared to 1975, was down 0.2 at 91.2.

Money Market Rates

Clearing Banks Base Rate 14%

Discount Mkt Loans%
Overnight: High 14 Low 13

Week Fixed: 14¼-14

Treasury Bills (Dis%)

Buying		Selling	
2 months	13⅝	2 months	13⅞
3 months	13	3 months	13⅞

Prime Bank Bills (Dis%) Trades (Dis%)

1 month	13¹¹⁄₁₆-13⅝	1 month	14⅛
2 months	13½-13	2 months	14⅛
3 months	13½-13⅛	3 months	14
6 months	12-12⅞	6 months	13½

Local Authority Bonds

1 month	14⅛-14⅛	7 months	14-13⅞
2 months	14⅛-14⅛	8 months	14-13⅞
3 months	14⅛-14⅛	9 months	14⅛-14
4 months	14⅛-14	10 months	14⅛-14
5 months	14⅛-14	11 months	14⅛-14
6 months	14-13⅞	12 months	14⅛-13⅞

Secondary Mkt. ECD Rates (%)

1 month	14-14	6 months	13-13⅞
3 months	13-13	12 months	13-13⅞

Local Authority Market (%)

2 days	14⅛	3 months	14
7 days	14⅛	6 months	14
1 month	14⅛	1 year	14

Interbank Market (%)

Overnight: Open 14⅛-14⅛ Close 14⅛

1 week	14⅛-14⅛	6 months	14-14
1 month	14-14	9 months	14-14
3 months	14-14	12 months	14-14

First Class Finance Houses (Mkt. Rate%)
3 months 14⅛ 6 months 14⅛

Finance House Base Rate 15½%

Other Markets

Australia	1.6945-1.7095
Bahrein	0.6810-0.6940
Finland	8.2655-8.3055
Greece	111.50-113.50
Hongkong	10.8440-10.8840
Iran	not available
Kuwait	0.5215-0.5245
Malaysia	4.2130-4.2430
Mexico	64.00-74.00
New Zealand	2.3100-2.3300
Saudi Arabia	6.2715-6.3015
Singapore	3.8500-3.8800
South Africa	1.7870-1.8020

Dollar Spot Rates

*Ireland	1.4910-1.4930
†Canada	1.2204-1.2206
Netherlands	2.5950-2.6000
Belgium	43.30-43.35
Denmark	7.8770-7.8820
West Germany	2.3720-2.3730
Portugal	69.00-69.20
Spain	102.20-102.30
Italy	1269.50-1270.50
Norway	5.9820-5.9850
France	6.0350-6.0400
Sweden	5.7450-5.7480
Japan	234.85-235.00
Austria	16.64-16.66
Switzerland	1.8770-1.8785

* Ireland quoted in US currency.
† Canada $1 : US $0.8193-0.8195

Euro-$ Deposits

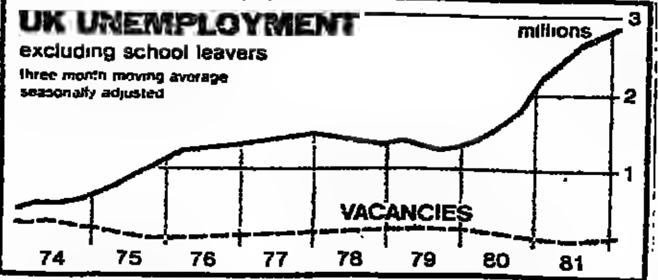
(%) calls, 14-15; seven days, 14⅛-14⅛; one month, 14⅛-14; three months, 14-14; six months, 14⅞-15.

Gold

Gold fixed: am, $360.50 (an ounce); pm, $361.00 close, $361.50.
Krugerrand (per coin): $372-374 (£203-204).
Sovereigns (new): $88-89 (£48-48.50).

BUSINESS NEWS

Underlying increase



The underlying level of unemployment went up by just over 7,000 in February, the smallest increase since November 1979. But job vacancies, usually regarded as the most sensitive indicator of the labour market, show no signs of picking up. Only about a third of all jobs available are notified to employment exchanges, but there are 10 people without work for every job available.

Third reading for Bill

The Lloyd's Bill to reform the London insurance market now has to have its third reading in the Commons after passing through the Report stage on Monday. Amendments to the so-called immunity clause were defeated.

Cast has 'more offers'

Mr Frank Narby, chief of the Cast shipping group, said that "further offers" have emerged for the assets the beleaguered shipping line is hoping to sell. Last Friday he announced that "a number of serious approaches" had been received. US Lines and Thomas National Transport were among those reported to be considering a purchase. Yesterday Mr Marby said that it was "not only possible but likely" that the assets would be sold to more than one party.

Fight for ACC may go to trial

Arrangements agreed in the Appeal Court on Monday to bring finality to the legal battle in the takeover war for Lord Grade's old group, ACC, were put in jeopardy yesterday.

The three Appeal judges hearing the case, in which Gerald Ronson's Heron Corporation and other ACC shareholders have been seeking to block Mr Robert Holmes a'Court's £36m takeover of ACC, granted a short adjournment for both sides to reconsider their position.

Lord Justice Lawton said the "stark reality" was that the case might have to go to a full trial after all.

Shipping order

Shipyards on Humberside and Tyneside have beaten off strong competition to win orders for two 1,000-tonne anchor handling supply vessels from Zapata Offshore Services of Great Yarmouth. The contract is thought to be worth £7m.

● Sir Kenneth Cork, senior partner in Cork, Gully & Co, has rejoined the board of the Ladbroke Group as a non-executive director. He resigned in 1978 following his election as Lord Mayor of London.

● The Stock Market flotation of Fleet Holdings — the publishing interests of Trafalgar House which includes Express Newspapers — as a separate company has been delayed for at least three weeks. The delay is said to have been caused by "technical difficulties".

● The Government is to draw up a new list of approved microcomputer suppliers this year. The chosen companies will share out a market that is worth £10m a year already, and expanding rapidly.

● The Lee Cooper Group is to close its manufacturing plant at Harold Hill, Essex, and its Brentwood pressing plant by May 7, making 239 redundant, of whom 30 per cent are part-time.

MARKET SUMMARY

13 point slump surprise

LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 559.0 down 9.2
FT Gilts 66.80 down 0.34
FT all share 324.67 down 3.31
Bargains 21.567

The 13 point slump on Wall Street overnight came as an unwelcome surprise to the stock market after the previous day's gains, and both equities and gilts drifted lower, with the FT Index at the close down 9.2 at 559.0.

Falls in leading shares ranged from 2p to 8p with **ICI** shedding 4p to 332p reflecting adverse comment ahead of Thursday's figures. But against the market trend **Plessey** put on 1p to 366p ahead of Thursday's third quarter figures.

Gilts had a quieter day with profit taking clipping £¾ from long dates and £⅜ from mediums. Shorts opened at the previous night's close but ended with losses of £¼.

Electricals had **GEC** at 827p and **Thorn EMI** 475p both shedding 10p.

The insurance sector was one of the few bright spots, stimulated by **Commercial Union**, up 12p at 144p after much better than expected profits but a 20 per cent earnings rise failed to help **Natwest** which slipped 7p to 473p.

Engineering group **Dowty** shed 1p to 116p after 1.5m shares in two lots were placed in the market at 115p, showing the underlying strength of the market. Elsewhere there were lines of 100,000 **Montague Meyer** on offer at 68p and 200,000 **Grand Metropolitan** at 199p.

Ductile Steels was up 7p to 124p ahead of figures due shortly. There was a buyer of a small amount of stock, but it was not **Caparo Industries**, which holds 18 per cent of the equity and has been tipped as a likely bidder.

Mechanical and civil engineering group **Braby Leslie** was also in demand amid bid rumours. **Starwest Investment Holdings** has a 14.5 per cent stake most of which it acquired from ICFC last year, while another 6 per cent stake was bought last week by **CHI Securities**.

News that Mr Slater and his associates had sold a large slice of their shares in the Belfast-based property group **Laganvale Estate** gave a 4½p bost to the shares at 33p. **Rhone Trust** paid 34p a share for a 20 per cent stake, with investment clients of brokers **Henry Cooke, Lumsden & Co** paying the same price for a further 9.9 per cent. his leaves Mr Slater and his associates controlling 8.9 per cent.

In the wake of the **Euroflame** suspension, another USM stock to suffer has been **Willaire Systems**. Also brought to the market by **Tring Hall Securities**, which eased 2p to 12p.

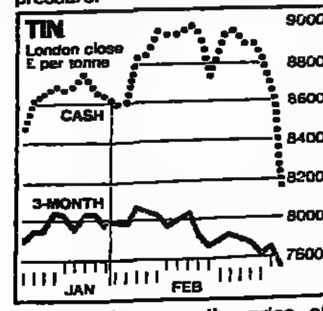
Growing pressure to cut the price of North Sea oil in a effort to end the world glut continues to depress oil shares, with **Berkeley Exploration** down 22p to 307p and **Shell** 6p easier at 350p.

Equity turnover on February 22 was £126.842m (15,041 bargains).

Gareth David

COMMODITIES

Cash tin prices dived by £440 a tonne yesterday to £8,165 as the buyer who has recently been so influential in the market suspended operations. Recent physical shipments also eased the pressure.



But a three months price of £7,752, down £95, meant that the backwardation which has been a persistent feature of the market is still over £400 a tonne. Trading was characterized by heavy borrowing, one company borrowing 2,000 tonnes of metal.

TODAY

Board meetings: Half-yearly: BPM Holdings, British Assets, Crossfriars Trust, Eleco Holdings, Harrisons Malaysian Estates, Johnson Matthey (9 months), Wedgwood (39 week figures). Finals: Carrington Viyella, Child Health Research Investment, Hoover, Marchwiel, Moorside Trust, NCR, Rights and Issues Investment Trust.

OTHER EXCHANGES

Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 7,714.56 down 43.0
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 1,255.33 down 21.69

CURRENCIES

● The dollar rose sharply following yesterday's remarks by the Fed chairman reiterating the need for tight money policies. The pound closed near the day's lows.

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling
$1.8315 down 175 points
Index 91.2 down 0.2
DM 4.3450
Fr.F 11.0450
Yen 428.00
Dollar
Index 112.5 up 0.8
DM 2.3725 up 240 pts
Gold
$361.50 down $4

MONEY MARKETS

● Rates were steadier. The Bank bought £146m of bills outright and £422m for repurchase by the houses on Thursday. The forecast shortage was finally put at £600m.

Domestic rates:
Base rates 14%
3-month interbank $14^{3}/_{16}$-$14^{1}/_{16}$
Euro-currency rates:
3-month dollar $14^{11}/_{16}$-$14^{15}/_{16}$
3-month DM 10⅛-10
3-month FrF 15¼-15½

Rolls seeks state aid for joint engine project

By Peter Hill, Industrial Editor

Requests for a substantial injection of Government funds to support the development of a new aircraft engine are expected to be made within the next few months by Rolls-Royce, the state-owned aero-engine builder.

R-R is hopeful of reaching agreement by the end of next month with either Pratt and Whitney or General Electric, its principal American rivals, to participate the joint venture which the British company has established with three large Japanes groups for the development of the RJ 500 engine.

This fuel-efficient enigne, on which the existing partners have already spent £40m, is designed to power the aircraft industry's planned 150-seat airliner.

Testing of the first of the RJ 500 engines has now begun. The Japanese partners will begin testing their first engine in the next few weeks.

The size of the funds to be sought from the Government will turn on whether or not there is American involvement, and also on agreement on the shares which each of the partners will hold in the consortium. Funds, if provided will take the form of launching aid, on which R-R will pay royalties to the Government from future sales.

JOINT VENTURES

Existing aero-engine link-ups include: Rolls-Royce joint venture with Ishikawajima-Karima Heavy Industries and Kawasaki Heavy Industries on the RJ-500.

General Electric collaborative deal with France's Snecma for development of CFM-56 engine for 150-seater.

Rolls-Royce, Motoren und Turbinen Union of West Germany and Fiat Aviazone of Italy engaged in collaborative development of RB-199 for Tornado multi-role combat aircraft.

The new engine could be fitted to the proposed new A 320 manufactured by Airbus Industrie in which British Aerospace has a 20 per cent stake. Another likely customer is America's Boering, expected to launch a rival to the A 320.

It is Rolls-Royce's belief that multinational joint ventures are the only way in which the engine builders can surmount the enormous costs involved. A new civil engine development programme is likely to cost about £1,100m.

Mr Ralph Robbins, R-R's commercial director, said of the talks with the two American companies yesterday: "Negotiations are continuing. The object is to achieve a situation where by the end of March, we have taken a decision to introduce a third partner".

He continued: "With new engine development costs of between $1,500m and $2,000m, it is getting beyond the resources of a single, manufacturer to take on a new programme on its own".

R-R, in its long-term forecasts, hopes to secure orders for an estimated 5,000 engines over the next 25 years for the RJ 500 series and its family of RB 211 designs.

Mr Norman Lamont, Minister for Industry will later today be questioned by the Select Committee on Industry and Trade about the financing of R-R, which was taken into state ownership 11 years ago following its collapse.

After four years of losses and a £50m cash injection from the Government last year, the company is forecasting a profit next year. It has shed 6,000 jobs over the past 15 months and is planning a similar further reduction, mainly through voluntary redundancy, during 1982.

Volcker warning as US prime rates slip

By John Whitmore

Most leading United States banks cut their prime lending rates from 17 to 16½ per cent yesterday. But at the same time Federal Reserve chairman Mr Paul Volcker urged caution over this week's sharp drop in money market interest rates and once again warned of potential problems ahead.

Mr Volcker told the Congressional Ways and Means Committee that appropriate restraint on the expansion of money and credit continued to be fundamental to restoring price stability.

Although he felt the improving trend in price inflation meant that the present year monetary targets could accommodate a business recovery later this year, he reiterated the need for reducing the Federal deficit in 1983.

He warned that the Federal deficit could reach $150,000m in 1983, more than 50 per cent higher than the Administration has predicted.

On the short term situation, Mr Volcker said he would not over-interpret one week's money supply figures. These had showed a larger than expected fall when announced last Friday.

The City was inclined to take a similar view yesterday. After Monday's euphoria, encouraged by the Bank of England's reduction in its money market intervention rates, markets decided to pause for breath.

Although the Bank has been pointing the way to a further cut in the general level of interest rates, it remains to be seen whether the commercial banks are prepared to move until they have seen a further set of United States money supply figures.

Domestic money markets should show an easier trend over the next couple of days as funds start to flow back into the system from the repayment of funds to unsuccessful applicants for the Amersham International issue.

3 mth INTEREST RATES
16 per cent
15
14
13
EURO £
EURO $
JAN
FEB

While the expectation remains that base rates may well be cut to 13½ per cent during the next few days, there is also a feeling that the authorities will not want to see interest rates falling any farther just yet.

In particular, the authorities will be watching the performance of sterling. Yesterday, the pound fell 1¾ cents to $1.8315 and its index against a basket of currencies by 0.2 to 91.2. The lower trend reflects both the fall in United Kingdom interest rates and the continuing weakness of the oil price.

Markets will be particularly keen to see how other European countries pursue their interest rates now that the EMS realignment is out of the way.

Government securities lost up to 75p of their £2 plus gains of Monday as profit-takers stepped in. Equities lost ground in sympathy with Wall Street, the FT index closing 9.2 lower at 559.

Economists oppose reflation call

The Government should stick to its monetarist guns and resist the temptation to reflate the economy, say economists at the City University Banking Centre

Business Editor, page 22

Oil industry forecasts $28 barrel

Official world oil prices are likely to fall even if Saudi Arabia bows to pressure from its fellow members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries and cuts back its production, some international oil companies now believe.

Sources close to Aramco, the consortium of four American oil majors which lifts nearly all Saudi Arabian crude production, said yesterday that Saudi Arabian output cuts will almost certainly not be enough to defend the official Opec pricing structure — based on a $34 a barrel bench mark — from being eroded.

Some companies would not be surprised to see the average price of crude oil fall from about $33 a barrel now to $28 or even to $25 a barrel in the face of the present oil glut and persistent downward pressure on oil prices.

There was still no confirmation last night Opec would be holding an emergency meeting to discuss ways of stopping prices falling, despite pressure from several of the organization's 13 members.

Iran's decision to cut its oil price by another $2 a barrel in breach of the official Opec price structure was however confirmed by one of its customers, the Italian State-backed oil corporation Agip.

Oil companies expect that British National Oil Corporation will have to concede a further cut in North Sea oil prices when second quarter contracts come up for negotiation in the next two to three weeks.

A $2 a barrel cut would cost the Government another £400m a year in lost revenue.

☐ BNOC will retain the right to attend North Sea field operating committees after its exploration and production interests are privatized. The Government says this will help BNOC to trade efficiently.

State group seeks cheap foreign supplies

BL fights steel price rise

By Peter Hall and Edward Townsend

Two loss-making state-owned companies, British Leyland and the British Steel Corporation, are involved an an argument over prices.

BL is opposing price increases introduced from October by the BSC as part of a Europe-wide move by steelmakers to lift prices to restore the EEC steel indusry to profitability.

It is scouring the world in search of alternative, cheaper steel supplies. BL is a major customer for BSC's sheet-steel output with the bulk of its supplies produced by the south Wales plants at Fort Talbot and Llanwern. About 15 per cent of the corporation's sheet steel is taken by BL for its 500,000 cars a year.

Coordinated by the EEC Commission, European steelmakers introduced a 12½ per cent across-the-board average increase on a wide range of products at the beginning of this year. Prices are scheduled to rise by a further 4½ per cent by this summer.

Steel users throughout the Community have expressed their concern at the steep rise in their basic raw material arguing that amid the continuing recession they will find it is virtually impossible to recoup their higher costs through increased prices.

So far the new price lists have been accepted but the steel producers recongnize that this could be upset. It appears that members of the cartel formed by the European integrated steelmakers have so far not broken ranks in agreeing to supply BL.

Sir Michael Edwardes, the BL chairman, has already made clear his annoyance at the operation of the steelmakers' cartel. He recently told MPs: "We find it incredible that such a course of action should be regarded as a viable road for the long-term recovery of the steel industry, given that it involves a complete suspension of market forces, a collusive agreement to put up prices by upwards of 20 per cent in a depressed market, and blanket protection against cut-price imports."

Sir Michael: annoyed at cartel operations.

This week, Labour MPs urged the Government to encourage BL to buy British steel. BSC is apparently continuing to invoice BL but the car-maker claims not to have so far received any bills at the new prices.

BL last night confirmed that it was discussing with BSC, whose chairman, Mr Ian MacGregor is a former BL board member, the extent of the increases while at the same time seeking to place contracts with producers outside Europe.

A BL spokesman said: "We are very concerned that BSC is pressing for these increases when our other major suppliers have held their prices or are increasing them only marginally".

MacGregor's money search, page 21


Picture: Brian Harris

Chairman Robin Leigh-Pemberton (seated with chief executive *William Benson*): *Lower bad debts in 1981.*

Another bank record as NatWest makes £494m

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

National Westminster became the second of the big clearing banks to report record profits for 1981. Yesterday it announced and £84m rise to profits of £49m before tax and a 20 per cent rise in shareholders' dividends to 36p gross.

Last week Lloyds Bank also announced best ever profits, up by a third to £386m, and an even bigger rise in dividends. Although there has been no sign that the Government plans another windfall profits tax, the high profits being reported by the banks are likely to provoke controversy and may influence the outcome of the current round of pay talks.

Yesterday the Federation of London Clearing Banks raised its pay offer to 180,000 clerical staff by 1 per cent to 8½ per cent in response to the original claim of 15 per cent. The federation emphasized that this was its final offer.

Much lower bad debt provisions, paricularly in the parent bank, were the main reason for National Westminster's profit rise. Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, chairman, said that recoveries of provisions had been high and companies were surviving the recession better than expected.

A breakdown of profit before loan stock interest showed domestic profits up from £258m to £314, and the international side up from £155m to £172m. Higher profits from Lombard North Central boosted profits from related services from £32m to £70m. Group net interest income rose by only 9 per cent in 1981, partly reflecting lower interest rates but higher commissions and foreign exxchange earnings helped boost non-interest income by 29 per cent.

● Grindlays Holdings which owns 51 per cent of Grindlays Bank yesterday reported pretax profits up from £33.5m to £34.6m and an unchanged dividend. Attributable profits fell from £7.4m to £5.3m, after minorities and a high tax charge reflecting Grindlays' shortage of United Kingdom earnings.

Erna Low travel group stops trading

By Rupert Morris

Erna Low, the travel company which pioneered family skiing holidays after the second world war, ceased trading yesterday. It went into voluntary liquidation after the Civil Avaition Authority refused it an operating licence.

The licence was withheld because the CAA was "no longer satisfied as to the company's financial arrangements".

About 300 clients on holiday with the firm in Austria, Switzerland and France will be able to complete their stay and fly home on other aircraft. A further 800 who had booked up will be able to get their money back.

The Association of British Travel Agents said yesterday: "If we can do it for Laker, we can do it for them."

Miss Erna Low, the Austrian-born sportswoman who gave her name to the company, sold it in 1971, bought it back after liquidation in 1975, sold it again in 1979, and left the company in 1980. She continues in business as a travel consultant.

The company specialized in low-price family winter holidays, with a coach package at £65 for a week and return flight packages from £97 a week upwards.

News of its demise was greeted with surprise in the travel business, where Erna Low had established a reputation for reliability and value. Some sources expressed the view that the CAA was being more than usually rigorous in the light of the collapse of Sir Freddie Laker's empire.

Apart from reassuring clients that their money would be secured by their ABTA bond, Mr John Rankin, an Erna Low director, was reluctant to explain the firm's collapse.

He would not even say how many employees the company had, although it is unlikely to be much more than 20.

Erna Low has taken between 11,000 and 14,000 holidaymakers a year to Alpine resorts, flying from Gatwick, Heathrow and Manchester.

Despite the recession, skiing specialists have been reporting no slump in demand for holidays.

The company also incorporated Encompass Worldwide Holidays and Conference Services, one of Britain's leading international conference organizers.

Commercial Union profits fall

By Ronald Pullen

A tough year for insurance markets has led to a sharp drop in profits at Commercial Union, Britain's second largest composite insurance group.

Pre-tax profits fell 21 per cent to £81.7m despite a sizable increase in premium income from £1,172m to £1,515m.

The results were rather better than expected after the 26 per cent decline at the nine month stage, and helped by a near 10 per cent rise in the group's dividend to shareholders, the shares gained 11p, rising to 143p.

Insurers generally have had a very difficult year because of the recession, high interest rates and intense competition in insurance markets, and CU has been hit relatively hard because of its growth strategy in the United States, where the competition has been even stiffer.

Overall CU loss from underwriting insurance business soared from £57.3m to £131.9m, with the United States contributing the largest proportion — £85.6 — of this total.

Elsewhere it was almost as bad, with Canada's underwriting loss doubling to £23m despite an increase in rates of more than 30 per cent. Losses in Britain rose from £2.3m to £5.5, with the bad weather in December costing CU £5m, and indications so far that the January deficit will be even higher.

The underwriting loss was covered by investment income, which rose 34 per cent to £201m, helped by a move into high interest bonds in the United States.

Mr Jack Emms, the retiring chief general manager of CU, said yesterday that the United States had shown some improvement in the final quarter, particularly in the important workers' compensation lines, but he doubted if the group could continue to go against the market trend in 1982.

The right medicine, page 20

BUSINESS NEWS/COMPANIES AND MARKET REPORTS

Rewards of aggression ... attractions of property

The right medicine for CU

Commercial Union, the sick man of the composite insurers for so long, saw some colour return to its cheeks yesterday with a stronger than expected final quarter (Ronald Pullen writes).

Against market expectations pitched at least £10m lower, CU managed to contain the drop in pre-tax profits to 21 per cent at £81.7m. Coupled with a near 10 per cent rise in the dividend to 16.9p gross — albeit only 1.3 times covered on a normal tax charge — the shares jumped 11p to 143p, where the yield of just over 11 per cent is a good 3 points higher than the sector average. This cannot harm the board's ammunition should a predator ever decide to strike.

For shareholders, however, the key is whether the strongish final quarter in the United States above all the other territories is a vindication that the aggressive American strategy is beginning to pay off. Pointing to the steadily declining expense ratio in the United States through the year and an improvement in the operating ratio to 104 per cent in the final quarter, CU evidently believes its transatlantic trials are over the worst.

Overall, however, the United States is producing the heaviest underwriting loss at £85.6m in 1981, up from 1980's £31.8m, followed by Canada's £23m loss, which even after higher investment income still translates into an overall deficit of £7m and £9m respectively. Despite a 12 per cent gain in premium income, the recession and tough competition in the United Kingdom has more than doubled the underwriting loss to £5.5m with the bad weather last December costing the group £5m.

For the current year, the 34 per cent jump in investment income is unlikely to be repeated following the shift from deep discount to high income United States bonds last year and possibly lower interest rates. Commercial Union cannot contine to go against the market trend indefinitely in the United States although there is still plenty to be done on commercial lines and there appears to have been a marked shift towards lower profitability in the proviously lucrative United Kingdom market.

Estate agents go West

North America's increasing attractiveness to property investors has tempted merchant bankers Robert Fleming to launch its own American Property Unit Trust which is expected to get Department of Trade approval in April (Baron Phillips writes.)

According to Mr John Newman, who manages the bank's United Kingdom property unit trust, the move has little to do with the existing low yields here, but a willingness on the part of pension funds to regard the American property market as a suitable investment medium.

This latest venture is being jointly managed by Fleming and Connecticut General Mortgage, the United States insurance company which has been involved heavily in property investment over the past decade. Retained valuers for the fund will be the New York office of the United Kingdom chartered surveyors Jones Lang Wootton.

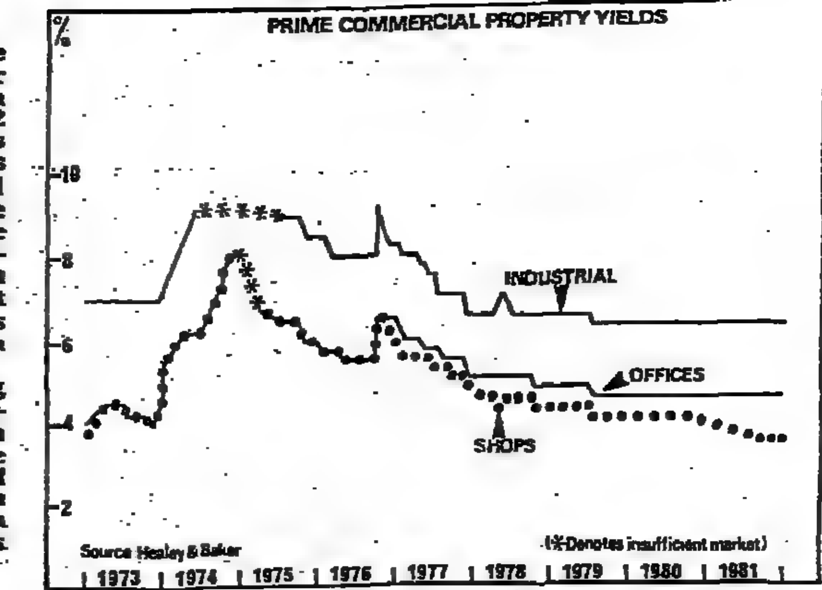
The trust expects to attract around $20m of pension fund cash and by the end of this year Robert Fleming hopes the fund will reach about $40m. Initially, investment will be made in small to medium-sized office buildings although Connecticut General is experienced in development funding.

Irrespective of how difficult it is to find suitable property in the United Kingdom, there has been an increasing tendency for investors to cross the Atlantic where gross returns are in the 8½-9½ per cent range, some four points higher than at home.

Many pension funds, notably the Coal Board, have already established significant North American property portfolios. The unit trust allows smaller pension funds to spread their cash into more higher yielding investments without consuming vast numbers of management hours in finding suitable properties

Prime property yields have levelled off over the past year and are expected to remain depressed for the coming 12 months. Most property experts believe that the vast resources of cash-rich institutions will continue overhanging the market while large prime investments are in short supply. Any short term slow down in rental growths is not discouraging fund managers from actively investing in United Kingdom property.

Although an increasing number of investors is acquiring properties in North America over the past three years this has had minimal impact on the United Kingdom market despite the recession and more attractive yields elsewhere.



Arabs in the Euromarket

It is almost a decade since the explosion in oil prices, but only now are Arab banks beginning to make their mark on the Euromarkets (Michael Prest writes). Last year Arab banks and other financial institutions were lead managers to syndicated loans worth $10,600m, or about 9 per cent of Euromarket operations. This year is likely to see their share increase further.

What was easily overlooked in the mid-1970s was that there were hardly any Arab banks. The only private Arab bank of distinction was the astute and conservative Arab Bank, based in Jordan. The other major banks were the state-owned Egyptian ones with a domestic orientation. The Kuwaitis were still newcomers. Anybody who suggested that Bahrain might grow into an important financial centre would have been considered eccentric.

As recently as 1979 Arab banks' share of Euromarket business was a mere 1.6 per cent. In 1980 it rose to 5 per cent. What caused the rapid expansion last year was primarily the entry into the market of new institutions, notably the Arab Banking Corporation, based in Bahrain and capitalized at $1,000m.

Behind the ABC and GIB stand the governments of Arabia and the Gulf.

INTERNATIONAL



FRANCE

The French Government has had to abandon its plans to nationalize the French pharmaceuticals firm, Roussel-Uclaf, after the refusal of its German parent company Hoechst, to give up its majority control. The government is reported to have agreed initially to a blocking stake of only 34 per cent, against the German group's 57.5, but the state holding could subsequently rise to 49 and then 50 per cent.

JAPAN

Mr Zenko Suzuki, the Japanese Prime Minister, said that Bills now before The United States Congress calling for reciprocity could draw retaliatory measures from other countries and worsen the world trade situation. He added that the world economy needed to be reactivated. He would like to see trade imbalances corrected by expansion, rather than reduction, of imports and exports.

W GERMANY

Provisional January trade and current account figures show that Germany is on target to achieve the balanced 1982 current account forecast earlier this month by the Bundesbank. The combined December and January current account revealed a small surplus on a seasonally adjusted basis.

ITALY

Alfa Romeo has reached agreement with the unions to lay off between 5,500 and 6,000 employees until March 1983. The lay-offs are in addition to workers on the assembly line, who are working two months out of three for the whole of the year.

UNITED STATES

New concessions from its unions, requested by Pan American World Airways, could result in an operating profit for the airline by the third quarter of this year, Mr C. Edward Acker, chairman, said. He declined to detail the concessions requested from the unions.

BIDS AND DEALS

Thomas Tilling in its first major investment in West Germany, is extending its activities into the field of electronic money handling, control and measurement equipment with the purchase of the Ads Anker G.M.B.H. and its associated sales companies in Germany based in Bielefeld, Westphalia, for a cash consideration of DM33m.

For the year 1980, Anker's sales amounted to DM105m and profits before tax totalled DM10m with home sales of DM81m. Anker is the leading producer of its type of products in West Germany and provides market support through an extensive service and sales network. Exports, amounting to DM24m were sold throughout the world but principally in Europe with the United Kingdom as the largest market after West Germany.

Anker's manufacturing operations at Bielefeld have been extended to meet increasing demand paricularly for the group's more sophisticated lines.

Anker has been in the forefront of the transition from electro-mechanical to electronic technologies and the present management team which has guided the company through the change will continue to operate and develop the business.

Mr Peter H. Ryan, a director of Tilling, will be appointed chairman of the company. The acquisition provides a significant opportunity for Tilling to extend its international development in Europe and enter a high technology business with a strong market position in Germany and considerable potential in other countries.

Drayton Commercial Investment board proposes that existing policy of overseas specialization should be intensified by raising overseas content of Trust's portfolio to 100 per cent and by investing 70 per cent of net assets in Japan. It is also proposed to change name of the trust to Drayton Japan Trust. If the proposal is approved at its annual meeting in March, policy should largely be carried out by December 31 and completed not later than March 3, 1983.

Braby Leslie Co. announces the acquisition of the business and certain assets of Cargomatic, of Middlesex, from the receivers and managers for £41,500.

Cargomatic's products include aircraft container transporters and other ground support equipment complementary to the range of products manufactured by the Braby Leslie Group's aerospace and power division.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Monthly figures for unemployment in the UK published by the Department of Employment.

	Adults (adjusted) 000	% of all employees	Unadjusted inc. school leavers 000
1981			
Feb	2,304	9.5	2,463
March	2,381	9.8	2,485
April	2,452	10.1	2,525
May	2,515	10.4	2,558
June	2,662	10.6	2,680
July	2,582	10.7	2,852
Aug	2,626	10.9	2,940
Sept	2,673	11.1	2,999
Oct	2,729	11.3	2,989
Nov	2,764	11.4	2,954
Dec	2,782	11.5	2,941
1982			
Jan	2,829	11.7	3,071
Feb	2,836	11.7	3,045

REGIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT

Seasonally adjusted (excluding school leavers)

	No 000	Change in month 000	% of all employees
South East	658.9	+3.9	8.7
East Anglia	70.0	+0.4	9.7
South West	172.5	+1.2	10.3
W Midlands	332.1	−0.1	14.3
E Midlands	168.1	−1.5	10.4
Yorkshire & Humberside	257.5	–	12.2
North West	401.6	−2.2	14.1
North	200.3	−2.4	14.8
Wales	162.6	+0.6	15.0
Scotland	306.5	+0.6	13.7
G Britain	2,731.7	+7.1	11.6
N Ireland	104.3	–	18.1
U K	2,836.0	+7.1	11.7

INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES

Akzo NV, the Dutch chemical and fibres group, had profits of guilders 239m (£62m) for 1981, against a loss of guilders 70m in 1980. The group is proposing a two-guilder dividend for 1981. It passed a dividend a year earlier.

The group realized a net extraordinary gain of guilders 14m, largely due to sale of assets, the group said.

Sales rose 16 per cent to guilders 14,460m, in 1981, 13 per cent of which was due to price increases including the effects of a higher United States dollar, while sales volume rose 3 per cent.

Sales of man-made fibres increased 23 per cent in the year Akzo said.

Losses on West European synthetic textile and carpet fibres declined in the year but were still considerable, the company said.

Operations of Akzo's chemical products and coatings, pharmaceutical, consumer and other products generally performed satisfactorily.

Investments totalled guilders 680m against 645m in 1980.

Akzo's total workforce fell by 5,300 to 77,800 last year. More than half of this was related to its fibre plants, it said.

Aeritalia, the aerospace unit of Italy's tri-Finmeccanica state engineering group, expects a modest profit in 1982 thanks largely to the strength of foreign orders, Finmeccanica chairman Franco Viezzoli said.

Results for 1981 are not yet available, but in 1980 Aeritalia showed a loss of 4,300m lire (£1.86m).

Aeritalia is involved in a joint venture with British and West German companies to build a military aircraft, the Tornado. It also collaborates with Boeing and McDonnel Douglas of the United States and the south American aerospace concern Embraer.

Fried Krupp, the West German steel and heavy industrial group, is forming a subsidiary in the United States to take over two engineering companies held by Salem Corporation of the United States, effective from mid-March, Krupp announced.

The new company, Krupp Wilputte, will have a staff of about 100 and one of its major activities will be in the United States coke, coal and petrochemical markets.

NBI Holdings of Australia, which last month reported its first trading loss since 1936, will make a rights issue to raise a $125.60m (£73m) from shareholders.

It will issue about 55.60 million shares at a $2.25 each on a one-for-eight basis.

Funds will provide general working capital to finance further development schemes.

Sime Darby Berhad's acquisition of the whole of the issued capital of Kempas not already owned by Sime Darby and its subsidiaries has been sanctioned by the High Court in Kuala Lumpur.

Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

This table is published on Wednesday and Saturday

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BUSINESS NEWS/FOCUS AND COMMENT

PEOPLE

Girls cut a dash in overalls

There was an unlikely fashion show in Mayfair yesterday when Laurie Quick presented his Just Women collection. Quick comes from neither London, Paris or Rome but from Henley-on-Thames, where he is managing director of an industrial clothing hire group called Spring Grove Services.

So far, Quick has specialized in overalls for men. Yesterday, however, he was showing off not only overalls for women but skirts, dresses and tabards for the working girl albeit mostly in shades of that boyish colour, blue.

But even Quick quailed at the idea of designing the clothes himself: for that he called in an all-girl team headed by his main supplier, Heather Ridgeway, managing director of Wessex Textiles in Taunton.

Quick says his market research shows women workers are more likely than men to welcome uniform, since it irons out that daily problem of what to wear for work.

Hurry! Hurry! Brokers Savory Milln still have a few seats for clients who have nothing better to do on Budget day than attend their teach-in on insurance at the Barber Surgeon's Hall just off London Wall. Apart from ex-Royal Insurance partner Brian Cordrey, Savory will field Mark Weinberg of Hambros Life, Mike Brown of the Company Pensions Information Centre, and Tony Ratcliffe of Eagle Star. The first speaker will be on his feet at 10am. Savory started specializing in insurance before anyone else — in 1918 and want once again to be number 1.

Insurance man's double life


Clifford Bowen Jones

For someone who is paid to be both silent and eloquent, Clifford Bowen Jones is enjoying a most voluble success. A part-time professional actor and full-time insurance representative, he has just become the first Briton to win an International Quality Award for outstanding sales success from the American-based Life Insurance Marketing and Research Association.

With business worth about £8m, and more than 3,000 clients, he has written more policies than anyone else in the 111-year history of the Confederation Life Insurance Company.

In his early 60s, CB has also played as surgeon, councillor and other upstanding citizens in television serials such as Muck and Brass and Crossroads. He says: "Appearance and manner count in both jobs . . . ".

Hard-pressed managers no longer find the time to attend residential courses. But Henley, The Management College, as it describes itself, has come up with an answer. Using texts, video and audio cassettes, the college is launching a home study management training scheme to degree level.



"Believe me Mrs Wilson — I don't like the proposed gas prices either, but shoving your final demand out again won't help anyone."

Peter Wainwright

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Mr S. H. Alfert has been appointed chief executive of Gresham Life Assurance Society and AMEV Kife Assurance with effect from April 1. He will succeed Mr J. S. Leighton who will relinquish his executive duties. Mr Leighton will remain on the boards of both companies.

Mr Roger T. Elmhirst has been appointed deputy managing director of Charterhouse Corporate Investments, which is responsible for the Charterhouse Group's wholly-owned investments.

American action could upset steel industry finances

Will Mr MacGregor come back for more money?

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Industry was rather less than bullish earlier this week when he was questioned about the realism of the British Steel Corporation's objective of breaking even by the end of the 1982-83 financial year.

Conservative back-benchers are once again expressing anxiety about the corporation's ability to achieve the objectives set by its chairman, Mr Ian MacGregor (and on which his controversial transfer payment worth potentially £1.8m will be partially based.) That is to say that Mr MacGregor will be knocking on Mr Jenkin's door asking for yet more money to keep the corporation going.

While Mr Jenkin and his back-bench colleagues may have reservations about BSC's ability to shake off its reputation for being the largest single recipient of state cash, there is a strong belief among the higher echelons of the corporation that the target can be attained.

What is worrying the backbenchers, and by inference Mr Jenkin (who is anxious to reduce the Department of Industry's disbursements to public sector corporations in order to concentrate more on priming the industries of the future) is that as so often in the past the corporation's estimates and forecasts will turn out to be wrong.

It has to be said that under Mr MacGregor's guidance the BSC has made quite dramatic strides. The slimming that was identified by his predecessor, Sir Charles Villiers as vitally necessary, has been carried through to a considerable degree.

The corporation's top heavy structure has been streamlined, management and men have been motivated to a degree which less than three years ago would have been thought impossible. Productivity has risen dramatically — Llanwern is a shining example — to compare favourable with some of the best in Europe — and quality, delivery and confidence have improved out of all recognition. MacGregor was issued with a challenge. He accepted it and the results so far have been very encouraging.

All the improvements have been secured at a time of crisis for the steel industry in Europe. The continent has been replete with surplus steel and competition for business has been cut-throat, leading to outrageous price cutting, covertly and sometimes even overtly encouraged through Government subsidies by virtually every EEC member state.

By any standards the performance of the BSC in transforming itself — albeit with massive transfusions from the Exchequer, has been remarkable.

Throughout this critical period Mr MacGregor has said that it is his intention to maintain the present plant configuration and to stabilise capacity at around 14.4m tonnes.

The BSC chairman has continued to exude a cautious optimism that the targets will be met, that when he leaves the corporation — in its slimmed-down form aided by some privatisation — it will be in a much more robust state than when he joined. But being a canny Scot and a shrewd politician, he has been careful in his dealings with Whitehall to cover all eventualities, or at least most.

> 'What is worrying the Government is that as so often in the past the Corporation's estimate and forecasts will turn out to be wrong'

When he submitted his corporate plan for 1982-83 last December, he was careful to warn ministers that he would claim the right to modify the forecasts and objectives in the light of changed circumstances. For example that plan was submitted at a time when American steel companies were threatening to file anti-dumping suits against shipments of European steel to the American market.

It was also some weeks in advance of the onset of January's bad weather which cost the corporation about £100m in lost production and before the recent rail strikes.

Mr Jenkin pondered the report against the background of considerable uncertainty as to whether the round of price increases throughout Europe, co-ordinated by the EEC Commission and due to be introduced at the begining of this year, would be accepted by consumers.

So far, with some exceptions, and despite a predictable outcry from the steel industry's customers, the new price lists have held up in the market place.

But can the price regime continue to hold and to what extent is it likely to be undermined by the action taken by the Reagan Administration to curb European steel imports? The two are inextricably linked.

Even without all the imponderables and uncertainties there had been a basic disagreement over the funds which the BSC needed for 1982-83. In its anxiety to curb the public sector borrowing requirement, the Government in its White Paper on public spending, fixed a provisional External Financing Limit (EFL) for the BSC of £350m for the next year.

Despite the improvement in financial performance (first half losses in 1981-82 down to £196m pre-tax, compared with a thumping deficit for 1980-81 of £665m), Mr MacGregor's plan was pitching for £70m-£80m above that level. Since then circumstances have indeed changed.

For a start the American steelmakers *have* filed their legal suits and earlier this month the International Trade Commission (ITC) decided that it would go ahead with 38 out of 92 unfair pricing cases which had been filed against European producers in nine countries. Six of them are against Britain.

In the financial year which ends next month, the BSC expects to ship between 300,000 and 400,000 tonnes of steel to American customers and the hope for next year was that this year's level could be boosted by at least a further 100,000 tonnes. The commission is still locked in a diplomatic battle with the American authorities: it says that it is the EEC's intention to force the USA to stick to the principles of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade insolving the steel dispute.

But the effect of the ITC decision to go ahead with its investigations coupled with the impact of the bad weather has Mr MacGregor and his cohorts carrying out a thorough re-assessment of plans drawn up and submitted to the Government three months ago.


Mr Ian MacGregor: a canny Scot who keeps his options open

It is already clear that the corporation will be seeking rather more than the disputed £70m to £80m above the provisional EFL when it submits its request within the next few weeks. Above all Mr MacGregor believes that it is vital that the BSC maintains a respectable level of capital investment to ensure quality and efficiency.

But it is the uncertainty over the future of the co-ordinated price movement in Europe which casts a particularly dark shadow over the BSC's hopes and aspirations. On the basis of the assessments made so far, the corporation calculates that American curbs could affect about 20 per cent of its exports to the United States. That is worrying but not fatal.

The much bigger worry is that American curbs could shut out around 2 million tonnes of European steel which would be looking for a market. The fear is that European eyes would once more be directed across the Channel to British customers.

So where does that put the cartel's commitment to co-ordinate price increases under a regime of Commission-imposed quotas on production? Informally, the members of Eurofer, which effectively form a producers' cartel, have agreed that it will be essential to maintain the club for at least two more years beyond the present expiry date this July. So far the pact does not however have the approval of the state-owned sector of the Italian steel industry.

At the present the Italians, are witholding their support. Other EEC steel producers whose national governments may for political reasons decide that it may be judicious to truncate Dumas' Three Musketeers pledge to a more simple "all for one" although the member governments are committed to a phased programme of removing all steel industry state aids and subventions.

There is edginess in the steel market. There are reports that price-cutting is taking place with one large Eurofer steelmaker alleged to be offering a derivative of wire rod at 20 per cent below the official price.

The price regime remains precariously balanced. If it topples it will throw the market into confusion and it is the market which will largely determine BSC's further progress towards its financial goals.

Peter Hill

Business Editor

Critical days for tin market

Over the next three days we will see whether the steps taken by the authorities of the London Metal Exchange to avert a possible crisis on the tin market have been successful. Traders have been holding their breath as the mysterious buyer stays his hand and allows the cash price to sink. By all accounts, most traders who went short have been able to square their positions.

But for those still suffering from what the market coyly calls a technical tightness, the authorities have provided two escape routes. LME members have promised to lend tin to those needing to cover positions, and the indications are that one or two firms have made use of this opportunity. The other safety valve is the £120 premium.

For some shorts it may make sense to pay the premium. If the cash price continues to fall it might be cheaper to pay the premium for a few days and then buy the tin needed to cover themselves. Either way, the authorities appear confident that no embarrassing crashes are in the offing.

Nevertheless, the fundamental questions of who has been buying and why remain unresolved. In one sense the LME's task has been made easier by the buyer's scrupulous adherence to the rules. But by the same token this had made it harder to flush out the identity or purpose of the operator. Assuming that the next few days pass relatively quietly, the market will still have to convince users that it is not dominated by a single powerful presence.

Wall Street Looking sick

Share prices on Wall Street are looking decidedly sick despite prime rate cuts and strong hints from Treasury Secretary Donald Regan that interest rates could touch 13 or 14 per cent within the next two or three months. Why?

The first answer is that investors see themselves as each-way losers. The credibility gap between Wall Street and the White House over control oft the federal budget deficit is wider than ever. And that means either that interest rates will bound upwards again sooner or later, or, if the President is eventually forced into further public spending cuts or backtracking on his tax-cutting policies, that the corporate sector will continue to feel the squeeze well into 1983.

There is in any case some doubt as to just how much encouragement it is prudent to take from a single week of better-than-expected money supply figures. In spite of the relief at last week's money numbers, markets remain to be convinced that the money supply will not start to gallop away during March.

Over and above this, money has been pouring into the alternative investment instruments of the moment — zero coupon bonds, in spite of the uncertainties over their tax treatment, and financial futures.

And for those looking for more conventional homes for their money Triple A bonds returning around 15¼ per cent must look a more attractive bet so long as there is still so much talk of share prices moving into a new bear phase.

Nat West Provisions cut

A huge and unexpected improvement in bad debt provisions explains virtually all the rise in National Westminster's 1981 profits from £410m to £494m — a rise of a fifth compared with the one-third increase chalked up by Lloyd's last week.

The fall in bad debt provisions has happened at the parent bank — there was some increase on the international side and among the subsidiaries — with the result that group provisions have tumbled from £120m to £42m. Naturally NatWest contemptuously dismisses the suggestion that to escape the windfall profits tax it massaged down profits last year by bumping up provisions and is now writing it back.

The explanation given is simply that there has been a bunching of recoveries of provisions made in earlier years and the corporate sector has been healthier than expected. The puzzling thing is NatWest's experience here is so different from that of Lloyd's whose bad debt provisions — admittedly influenced by trouble areas like Poland — rose by 26 per cent in 1981.

The contrasting trends can only lend weight to the view that the banks' approach to bad debt provisions is far from uniform and can make comparisons misleading.

When enthusiasm and hope are just the job

AT WORK: CAREERS COUNSELLING

By Adrienne Gleeson

Careers guidance in secondary schools used to be, in the words of Miss Marie Fair, newly appointed headmistress of Bradford's St Joseph's College, something of a Cinderella subject. But not any more. According to Miss Fair, deputy heads and even heads are getting involved in careers work.

But what is even the most high powered of teams to say to the 16, 17 and 18-year-olds facing the hunt for a job knowing that at least three million other people, most of them older, more experienced and better qualified, are doing likewise?

They are going to tell them to take a strongly positive approach. This emerged quite clearly from a straw poll of careers teachers conducted last week. Given that few youngsters of this age will be able to earn enough to leave home, their opportunities will inevitably be restricted to whatever is available locally. What teachers are doing is encouraging them to decide what they want as early as possible and then to pursue it with determination.

They are being encouraged to come back into the sixth form if they do not succeed first time round. There they will learn new skills, in preparation for their next try.

That resolute optimism should be a prominent characteristic of career teachers is not perhaps surprising: what is more surprising is how often it seems to be justified.

Take the case of St Joseph's College. It is a girls' comprehensive, a former direct grant school with a traditionally strong sixth form, in an area if the West Riding which has been badly hit by the decline of the textile industry. About three-quarters of the fifth formers stay on, and the numbers are expected to rise.

More than half of the sixth formers are studying for A levels; the rest are topping up O levels or CSEs, or going in for some form of vocational or semi-vocational training, such as the City & Guilds Certificate in Community Care.

Miss Fair is in favour of this: "Even if all they get out of it is increased self esteem its worth it," she says.

Miss Fair knows of about 20 students still unemployed after completing their fifth year of secondary education last year. Of a similar number who left the sixth form, only two are on the dole.

At Tamar High School, Plymouth, the climate is equally positive and the conditioning starts early.

Careers guidance is already "a vital part of the curriculum" in the third year, according to headmaster Mr Frederick Hill. He believes this is the stage at which important decisions must be made about examination subjects. In the fourth year, two periods a week are devoted to the subject, with a wide range of people coming in to talk about jobs as varied as military police and retail management.

One or two have dropped out recently, Mr Hill says, and he thinks this is ominous. By the time he sees the pupils on an individual basis, early in the middle term of their fifth year, he believes that 90 per cent know what they want to do.

At Matthew Murray High School in Leeds careers are also part of the curriculum from the age of 13 onwards. Like Mr Hill, Mrs Sheila Wagstaff, who is in charge of careers guidance, thinks that her job at this stage is to open the children's horizons, to persuade them to be more flexible, and to impart some personal and social skills.

Most students in the sixth last year obtained employment or went on to higher education though Mrs Wagstaff acknowledges that those who joined the non-academic stream "have tended to drift away during the course of the year, when they have found employment". Of those who left after completing the fifth year, about half are still unemployed.

There is a section in the syllabus at Matthew Murray covering subjects such as how to claim benefit, and how to use "work free" time.

Ducie High School, in Manchester's Moss Side, is a mixed comprehensive with about 500 pupils, who do one period a week on careers when they get into the fourth form.

Of last year's leavers, about 10 per cent have found work and another 60 per cent are in further education or Youth Opportunity Schemes. In an area like this where the principal employers — the local authority, construction industry, and city centre commerce — are cutting back, the principal problem for the careers teacher is not to educate the children on the choices available, but to convince them that there is any work at all.

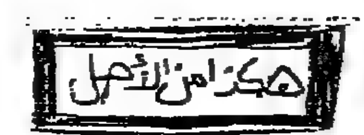
Miss Margaret Ogilvy, careers teacher, says: "We started an experiment recently in posting details of jobs, supplied by the careers service, on our notice board. At first the children kept coming up to me and asking whether they were real.

"A lot of my job is chivying people along — getting them to write letters and fill in forms for further education, for example."

While they would advise on the qualifications required for a particular career, and might advise on the area in which it would be sensible to concentrate, none of these teachers was prepared to make, or even to take a significant part in making, career decisions themselves.

They acknowledge the technological revolution, notably in an emphasis on the value of mathematics as one of a "core" of essential subjects for the curriculum — but decline to speculate on its implications on the marketability of the children.

However unhelpful this appears in the short term, in the longer run it is probably a wise decision. For one thing technology will change; for another the concept of life time's career is vanishing.



Commercial Union

Assurance Company plc

The Board announces unaudited profits for 1981 of £68.0m (1980 £76.5m) after providing for taxation.

	1981 Unaudited £m	1980 Published £m
PREMIUM INCOME	1,514.5	1,171.5
Investment income	201.0	151.4
Loan interest	(9.3)	(8.6)
	191.7	142.8
Life profits	17.3	15.2
Underwriting result (analysis below)	(131.9)	(57.3)
Associated companies' earnings	4.6	2.5
PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION AND MINORITIES	81.7	103.2
Taxation and minorities	(13.7)	(26.7)
PROFIT ATTRIBUTABLE TO SHAREHOLDERS	68.0	76.5
EARNINGS PER SHARE	16.54p	18.61p
SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS	£824m	£769m
UNDERWRITING RESULT	£m	£m
United States	(25.6)	(31.8)
United Kingdom	(5.5)	(2.3)
Netherlands	(7.7)	(3.0)
Canada	(23.0)	(11.9)
Remainder	(10.1)	(8.3)
	(131.9)	(57.3)

During 1981, insurers have been faced with unusually difficult trading problems arising from generally depressed economic conditions, high interest rates and consequent severe competition throughout the world. Nevertheless, our policy of steady growth produced an underlying premium increase of 16% (1980 17%).

In the United States, premium income increased by 23%, substantially higher than the average for the industry. The statutory operating ratio was 108.1% (1980 104.7%), the claims ratio to earned premiums 73.5% (1980 70.7%) and the expense ratio to written premiums 34.6% (1980 34.0%). A satisfactory result in the last quarter, which produced an operating ratio of 104.0%, had the effect of improving both the claims ratio and the expense ratio for the year from the levels published for the 9 months to 30th September 1981. This improvement was evident in both personal lines and commercial lines and in the property and workers' compensation classes

In the United Kingdom, premium growth was 12%. Although the motor account showed a satisfactory profit, adverse experience for commercial lines business, arising from intense competition and extreme weather conditions in the last quarter, produced an overall underwriting loss.

The total results for the Netherlands, including underwriting, investment income and life profits, showed a satisfactory improvement over last year. The underwriting loss continued to increase in the last quarter, but at a slower rate than for the first 9 months. The large motor portfolio traded profitably, but liability claims experience was worse than a year ago. Non-life premium growth was 2%.

In Canada, the underwriting experience was far worse than market expectations. Despite substantial premium rate increases during 1981, our underwriting loss deteriorated significantly. Premium growth was 12%.

The underwriting loss for Remainder reflected poor results in a number of territories in Western Europe although underwriting profits in the Far East increased. Marine and aviation business written on the London Market for the 1979 underwriting year was closed at the end of 1981 with a loss of £4.0m. The annual review of the provisions for earlier years has resulted in a release of £1.7m, producing an overall net loss of £2.3m.

Investment income, net of loan interest, increased by 34% on a published basis, with an underlying increase of 20% (1980 15%). This increase was due to continuing high interest rates, some changes in investment policy and the additional income arising from cash generated as a result of our premium growth.

Life profits improved satisfactorily and an underlying increase of 10% was achieved.

From the beginning of 1982, certain changes are to be made in the basis of presentation of life profits following the Insurance Companies Act 1981. This will release an estimated profit, after taxation, of £28.2m in 1982 as an exceptional item in addition to the normal life profits for that year. Full details of these changes will be given in the Report and Accounts for 1981.

Dividend

The Directors recommend for payment on 17th May 1982 a final dividend on the ordinary shares of the Company of 6.950p (1980 6.400p). Thus, together with the interim dividend of 4.850p (1980 4.400p) per share paid in November last, gives a total dividend of 11.800p (1980 10.800p) per share, which represents an increase of 9.3% on the dividend paid in respect of the year ended 31st December 1980. These dividends, including preference dividends for 1981, require £48.5m (1980 £44.4m). The balance of profit for 1981 amounting to £19.5m (1980 £32.1m) has been added to reserves. UK resident and certain foreign shareholders will be entitled to an imputation tax credit of 5.057p (1980 4.629p) per share at current rates of tax, making a gross dividend for the year of 16.857p (1980 15.429p) per share.

The Report and Accounts for 1981 will be posted to shareholders on 25th March 1982 and the Annual General Meeting will be held on 19th April 1982.

The results of the Company's operations have, as usual, been converted at the rates of exchange prevailing at the close of the periods reported. These were as follows:—

	1981	1980
United States	$ 1.91	$ 2.39
Netherlands	Fls 4.72	Fls 5.10
Canada	$ 2.25	$ 2.85

Insure with Commercial Union Assurance



ERNEST JONES

Results for the year ended 26th September 1981

	1981 £000	1980 £000
TURNOVER (VAT inclusive)	10,991	9,971
TURNOVER (VAT exclusive)	9,584	8,637
PROFIT before TAXATION	1,105	1,458
PROFIT after TAXATION	736	1,264
EARNINGS per Share	7.3p	12.6p
DIVIDEND per Share (net)	3.9p	3.9p

Points from the Chairman's Statement:

Record turnover.

Four new branches opened.

Continuing programme of selective expansion.

Copies of the Report and Accounts may be obtained, on or after 2nd March, from The Secretary.

ERNEST JONES (Jewellers) p.l.c.

Shifra House, 1-7 Harewood Avenue, London NW1 6JD.

BUSINESS NEWS/COMPANIES AND MARKET REPORTS

WALL STREET

New York, Feb 23 — The market showed some strength in the final hour of trading but still closed mixed on the day.

The market had been weak for most of the day, but attempted to rally late in the session, perhaps aided by news that durable goods orders declined 1.5 per cent in January, which analysts said highlighted the weakness in the economy.

The Dow Jones industrial average was up 1.72 at 812.98 but other broader indices were lower and declines led advances four to three. Volume rose to 60 million shares from yesterday's 58.31 million shares.

Analysts said investors focused on the poor economic outlook, and tended to ignore interest rate developments.

The decline in prime rate to 16½ per cent from 17 per cent by major banks had little impact, since the market is not convinced that interest rates will move lower

Word that the White House was "willing to talk" about a budget compromise did little more than reinforce the market, which had already begun to change direction when the announcement was made.

	Feb 23	Feb 22
Allied Chem	37⅛	36⅞
Allied Stores	27⅛	26½
Allis Chalmers	13⅛	13½
Alcoa	22½	22⅛
Amax Inc	29½	29⅜
Amerada Hess	17	17⅛
Am Airlines	12	11⅞
Am Brands	38⅞	39
Am Broadcast	30⅛	29½
Am Can	27⅞	27⅞
Am Cyanamid	27⅛	27⅞
Am Elec Power	16½	16⅜
Am Home	35⅞	36⅛
Am Motors	2½	2½
Am Nat Res	33½	33½
Am Standard	26⅛	25⅞
Am Telephone	54½	55
AMP Inc	19⅛	18⅞
Armco Steel	21½	21⅞
Asarco	21½	21⅛
Ashland Oil	25⅛	25½
Atlntc Richfield	35⅛	36
Avco	15½	15⅛
Avon Products	25⅞	25⅞
Bankers Tst NY	33⅞	33⅞
Bank of America	18⅞	18⅞
Bank of NY	43⅞	43⅞
Beatrice Foods	18⅛	17⅞
Bendix	52	51½
Bethlehem Steel	20½	20
Boeing	19½	19½
Boise Cascade	27½	26⅞
Borden	31½	31½
Borg Warner	25⅛	25⅛
Bristol Myers	54⅞	55⅞
BP	20½	21⅛
Burlington Ind	18	18⅛
Burlington Nthn	44⅞	44½
Burroughs	35⅞	34⅛
Campbell Soup	34	33⅞
Canadian Pacific	27⅞	27⅞
Caterpillar	47⅞	46⅛
Celanese	53⅞	55
Central Soya	10½	11⅛
Chase Manhat	56⅞	56⅛
Chem Bank NY	54	53⅞
Chrysler	4⅛	4⅛
Citicorp	25⅛	25
Cities Service	27⅞	27
Clark Equip	23⅞	23⅛
Coca Cola	31	30⅛
Colgate	17⅞	17½
CBS	44	43⅛
Columbia Gas	29⅛	29
Combustion Eng	30⅛	30½
Comwlth Edison	20⅞	20½
Cons Edison	34⅛	34⅛
Cons Foods	37⅞	37⅛
Cons Power	17⅛	17
Continental Grp	27	27⅞
Control Data	34⅛	34½
Corning Glass	44½	44⅞
CPC Intnl	37½	37⅞
Crane	27⅞	27⅛
Crocker Int	28⅞	28⅞
Crown Zeller	25½	24½
Dart & Kraft	50⅞	50⅛
Deere	32	31⅞
Delta Air	29⅛	27⅞
Detroit Edison	11⅞	11⅞
Disney	50⅛	49½
Dow Chemical	21⅛	21⅛
Dresser Ind	27½	26½
Duke Power	22⅞	21⅞
Du Pont	35⅞	35⅞
Eastern Air	5⅞	5⅛
Eastman Kodak	66⅛	66⅞
Eaton Corp	28⅛	25⅞
El Paso Nat Gas	25⅞	26⅞
Equitable Life	9½	9½
Esmark	43	47⅛
Evans P. D.	17	17
Exxon Corp	28⅛	28⅛
Fed Dept Stores	40	39⅛
Firestone	9½	9½
Fst Chicago	19½	19½
Fst Interst Bncp	30½	30⅛

	Feb 23	Feb 22
Fst Nat Boston	39⅛	39½
Fst Penn Corp	2⅞	2⅞
Ford	18⅛	17½
GAF Corp	10	10⅛
Gen Dynamics	23	23⅞
Gen Electric	61	60⅞
Gen Foods	30⅛	30⅛
Gen Mills	37⅞	37⅞
Gen Motors	34½	34⅛
Gen Pub Util NY	4⅛	4⅛
Gen Tel Elec	28⅞	28⅛
Gen Tire	19⅛	19⅛
Genesco	5	5
Georgia Pacific	17	17⅛
Getty Oil	47	48
Gillette	32⅞	32⅛
Goodrich	19½	19⅛
Goodyear	19⅛	19
Gould Inc	21⅛	21
Grace	38½	39⅞
Gt Atlntc & Pacific	4½	4½
Greyhound	14⅛	14⅛
Grumman Corp	24⅛	24½
Gulf Oil	30⅞	30⅛
Gulf & West	15⅛	15⅛
Heinz H. J.	29	29⅛
Hercules	19½	19⅞
Honeywell	73⅞	73⅛
IC Inds	32⅞	31½
Ingersoll	51⅞	52⅛
Inland Steel	20⅛	20⅛
IBM	60½	60⅛
Int Harvester	7	7
INCO	13⅛	13⅛
Int Paper	34⅛	33⅞
Int Tel Tel	25⅛	26⅛
Irving Bank	43⅛	43⅛
Jewel Co	30⅛	30⅛
Jim Walter	18⅛	18½
Johnson & John	37⅞	37½
Kaiser Alumin	14⅛	14⅛
Kerr McGee	30⅛	30⅞
Kimberly Clark	60½	61
K Mart	16⅛	16
Kroger	25⅞	27
L.T.V. Corp	16½	16⅛
Litton	50⅞	51
Lockheed	48⅞	48⅛
Lucky Stores	13⅛	13⅛
Manuf Hanover	30⅞	30⅞
Manville Cp	14½	14½
Mapco	32⅞	32
Marathon Oil	73⅞	72½
Marine Midland	24⅛	24⅛
Martin Marietta	30⅞	30
McDonnell	28½	29⅛
Mead	20⅛	20⅛
Merck	81⅛	82⅛
Minnesota Mng	53½	54½
Mobil Oil	22⅛	22⅛
Monsanto	66⅞	66⅛
Morgan J. P.	54	53⅞
Motorola	53	53⅞
NCR Corp	44⅛	44⅛
NL Industries	28½	28⅛
Nabisco	33⅞	33⅞
Nat Distillers	21⅛	21⅛
Nat Med Ent	15⅞	15
Nat Steel	23⅛	23⅛
Norfolk West	48⅞	49⅛
NW Bancorp	21⅛	21⅛
Norton Simon	20⅞	20⅛
Occidental Pet	21⅛	21⅛
Ogden	24½	24½
Olin Corp	19⅛	19⅛
Owens-Illinois	26⅞	26½
Pacific Gas Elec	22	21⅞
Pan Am	2⅞	2⅞
Penney J. C.	31	30½
Pennzoil	42	41⅛
Pepsico	35½	35⅛
Pfizer	54⅞	55
Phelps Dodge	26⅞	25⅞
Philip Morris	45⅞	46⅛
Phillips Petrol	33⅛	30⅛
Polaroid	19⅛	19⅛
PPG Ind	31⅛	31⅛

	Feb 23	Feb 22
Proctor Gamble	82⅛	81⅞
Pub Ser El & Gas	19⅛	19½
Raytheon	31⅛	31⅛
RCA Corp	17⅞	17⅞
Republic Steel	22⅛	22⅛
Reynolds Ind	43	43⅞
Reynolds Metal	18⅛	18⅞
Rockwell Int	29⅛	29⅛
Royal Dutch	29	29⅞
Safeways	28⅞	28⅞
St Regis Paper	27⅛	27½
Santa Fe Ind	15⅛	15½
SCM	20	20⅛
Schlumberger	47	46⅛
Scott Paper	16⅞	16⅛
Seagram	53⅞	52⅛
Sears Roebuck	16⅛	16⅛
Shell Oil	32½	33
Shell Trans	25⅞	25⅞
Signal Co	23⅞	23½
Singer	13⅞	14
Sony	14½	14½
Sth Cal Edison	30	29⅞
Southern Pacific	34⅛	34
Southern Rly	85⅛	90
Sperry Corp	29⅛	29⅞
Std Oil Califnia	30⅛	30⅞
Std Oil Indiana	37	37⅛
Std Oil Ohio	31⅞	32½
Sterling Drug	24⅞	24⅛
Stevens J. P.	15⅛	15⅞
Sun Comp	35⅞	36
Teledyne	125	124½
Tenneco	27⅞	27⅞
Texaco	30	30⅛
Texas East Corp	43½	44½
Texas Inst	78⅞	77½
Texas Utilities	20⅞	20⅞
Textron	22	22½
TWA	17⅛	17⅞
Travelers Corp	47½	46⅞
TRW Inc	47½	47½
UAL Inc	16⅞	16⅛
Union Carbide	42⅞	42⅞
Union Oil Calif	37⅞	38
Un Pacific Corp	36⅛	36⅛
Uniroyal	6⅛	6
United Brands	9⅞	10
US Industries	8⅞	8⅞
US Steel	22⅞	23⅛
Utd Technol	39⅞	39½
Wachovia	33⅞	33⅛
Warner Lambert	22⅞	22⅞
Wells Fargo	25½	25⅞
Westinghse Elec	22½	22⅞
Weyerhauser	25⅞	25⅞
Whirlpool	23⅞	23½
Woolworth	16	16⅛
Xerox Corp	36⅛	35⅞
Zenith	12	12

Canadian Prices

	Feb 23	Feb 22
Abitibi	19⅞	20
Alcan Alumin	23⅛	23⅛
Algoma Steel	35⅞	37
Bell Telephone	17⅞	17½
Cominco	49⅞	49½
Cons Bathurst	14⅞	15
Gulf Oil	13⅞	13⅞
Hawker/Sid Can	12	12
Hudson Bay Mn	19⅛	19½
Hudson Bay Oil	47½	47½
Imasco	41½	41½
Imperial Oil	22⅞	22⅞
Int Pipe	14⅛	14⅛
Mass.-Fergsn	2⅞	2⅞
Royal Trust	13⅞	13⅞
Seagram	64	63½
Steel Co	26⅞	26⅞
Thomson N 'A'	24	24
Walker Hiram	13	14⅞
WCT	12⅞	12⅞

• Ex div. a Asked. c Ex distribution. h Bid. k Market closed. n New issue. p Stock split. t Traded. y Unquoted.

COMMODITIES

COPPER: Higher grade closed steady at the lower levels. — Afternoon. — Higher grade cash, £861-862; three months, £889.50-890.00. Sales: 7,900 tonnes. Cash standard cathodes, £859-860.00; three months, £885-886. Sales: nil tonnes. Morning. — Higher grade cash, £866.50-867.00; three months, £894-895.00. Settlement, £867.00. Sales: 5,700 tonnes. Cash standard cathodes, £865.50-866; three months, £891.50-892. Settlement, £866.00. Sales: 550 tonnes.

TIN: Standard tin, for cash, was weak, while three months was easier. — Afternoon. — Standard cash, £8,150-8,180 a tonne; three months, £7,750-7,755. Sales: 4,255 tonnes. High grade, cash, £8,150-8,180; three months, £7,705-7,750. Sales: nil tonnes. Morning. — Standard cash, £8,380-8,400; three months, £7,825-30. Settlement, £8,400. Sales: 2,210 tonnes. High grade, cash, £8,380-8,400, three months, £7,825-30. Settlement, £8,400. Sales: nil tonnes. Singapore tin ex-works, $M32.51 a picul.

LEAD was barely steady. — Afternoon. — Cash £330.50-331.00 per tonne; three months £341-341.50. Sales, 4,150 tonnes. Morning. — Cash £334-34.50; three months £345-45.50. Settlement £334.50. Sales, 3,675 tonnes.

ZINC was steady. — Afternoon. — Cash £440.50-441.50 per tonne; three months £446.50-447. Sales, 3,000 tonnes. Morning. — Cash £442.50-43 three months £447-47.50. Settlement, £443.00. Sales, 4,600 tonnes.

PLATINUM was at £180.55 ($342.00) a troy ounce.

SILVER was steady. — Bullion market (fixing levels). — Spot, 426.70p per troy ounce (United States cents equivalent, 784.00); three months, 441.50p (813.00c); six months, 456.85p (843.90c); one year, 487.40p (904.9c). London Metal Exchange. — Afternoon. — Cash 429.5-430.5p; three months, 444-444.5p. Sales, 48 lots of 10,000 troy ounces each. Morning. — Cash, 428-29.0p; three months, 442.7-43.9p. Settlement, 429.0p. Sales, 54 lots.

ALUMINIUM was steady. — Afternoon. — Cash £582-583.00 per tonne; three months £603-604. Sales, 1,850 tonnes. Morning. — Cash £582-83.50; three months £603.50-4.00. Settlement, £582.50. Sales, 3,175 tonnes.

WOOL. — NZ Crossbreds, No.2 contract (cents per kilo): — March, 390-398; May, 402-409; Aug, 423-425; Oct, 421-424; Dec, 425-426; Jan, 425-430; March, 431-432; May, 437-440; Aug, 445-450. Sales: 163 lots.

GRAIN. (The Baltic). — **WHEAT.** Canadian western red spring, No.1, 13½ per cent unquoted, US dark northern spring No.1, 14 per cent Feb, £118.50; March £120; April £111.25 Transhipment east coast sellers. US hard winter 13½ per cent March £115.50 quoted trans-shipment east coast. ECC, unquoted. English feed fob: April £115.50 east coast; April—June £118 east coast sellers.

MAIZE. — US/French, unquoted. S. Africa White, unquoted. S. Africa yellow April £80.50 quoted.

BARLEY. — English feed fob: first-half March £111.00 east coast; March £112; April/June £114 east coast sellers. All cif UK unless stated.

MEAT COMMISSION: Average fatstock prices at representative markets on Feb. 23: — GB: Cattle, 102.73p per kg lw (+2.39). UK: Sheep, 204.38p per kg est d c w (+2.50). GB: Pigs, 77.44p per kg lw (-0.08). England and Wales: Cattle nos, up 6.5 per cent, ave. price, 102.00p (+3.04). Sheep nos, up 6.7 per cent, ave. price, 205.58p (+3.44). Pig nos, up 12.6 per cent, ave. price, 77.22p (-0.27). Scotland: Cattle nos, down 0.9 per cent, ave. price, 104.59p (+0.99). Sheep nos, up 37.1 per cent, ave. price, 201.73p (+0.58). Pig nos, down 7.6 per cent, ave. price, 79.17p (+1.41).

POTATOES (Gafta). — April, £137.00; Nov., £66.30; Feb., £77.00; Sales: 847 lots of 40 tonnes each.

EGGS (The London Egg Exchange). — Home-produced: Supplies of smaller sizes becoming less plentiful.

Home produced market prices (in £ per 120, based on trading packer/first-hand):

	Wed/Thur/Fri	Mon/Tues
1's	6.80 to 7.30	6.60 to 7.30
2's	5.90 to 6.50	5.60 to 6.10
3's	5.50 to 5.80	5.20 to 5.80
4's	5.20 to 5.50	5.00 to 5.90
5's	4.70 to 4.90	4.40 to 4.90
6's	3.70 to 4.20	3.80 to 4.30
7's	3.20 to 3.40	3.30 to 3.50

All prices quoted are for bulk delivery in Keyes trays. The above range is a guide to general market conditions and is dependent upon location, quantity and whether delivered or not.

CAPITAL MARKETS

Credit Commercial de France, lead manager for an issue of bonds by the United Mexican States, said that in view of the very strong demand, the amount of the issue was increased from $100m (£54.4m) to $130m, "and the timetable has been accelerated." The bonds are retractable at the holder's option in 1985, 1988, 1991 and 1994.

A working group of banks and money broking houses is looking into the possibility of establishing a financial futures market in Singapore.

The 12-member group, led by Continental Illinois Bank and Trust Company of Chicago, was set up a few weeks ago with the backing of the Monetary Authority of Singapore.

No timetable has been set, but banking sources said the group was expected to complete its work and submit a report to MAS by September.

Transcanada Pipelines is making a placing of £25m in unsecured notes which are automatically exchangeable on May 21, 1982, for First Mortgage Pipeline Bonds, 2007. The price will be set today so as to ensure a yield of 2½ per cent over the gross redemption yield of 3½ per cent Treasury Stock 2004/08. It is the first secured corporate issue for an overseas borrower since the removal of exchange controls. Transcanada Pipelines owns and has interests in natural gas pipelines in Canada and the United States.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	14%
Barclays	14%
BCCI	14%
Consolidated Crds	14%
C. Hoare & Co	*14%
Lloyds Bank	14%
Midland Bank	14%
Nat Westminster	14%
TSB	14%
Williams & Glyn's	14%

* 7 day deposits on sums of under £10,000 11½%, £10,000 up to £50,000 12½%, £50,000 and over 12¾%

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited

27/28 Lovat Lane London EC3R 8EB Telephone 01-621 1212

The Over-the-Counter Market

1981/82 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div(p)	Yld %	P/E Actual	P/E Fully Taxed
124	100	ABI Hldgs 10% CULS	124	—	10.0	8.1	—	—
75	62	Airsprung Group	70	—	4.7	6.7	11.1	15.4
51	33	Armitage & Rhodes	44	+1	4.3	9.8	3.7	8.3
205	187	Bardon Hill	203	—	9.7	4.8	9.9	12.0
104	71	Deborah Services	71	—	6.0	8.5	3.5	6.7
131	97	Frank Horsell	131	—	6.4	4.9	11.8	24.3
83	39	Frederick Parker	83	—	6.4	7.7	4.2	8.1
78	46	George Blair	51	—	—	—	—	—
102	93	Ind. Pref. Castings	95	—	7.3	7.7	6.8	10.3
106	100	Isis Conv Pref	106	—	15.7	14.8	—	—
113	94	Jackson Group	96	—	7.0	7.3	3.0	6.8
130	108	James Burrough	112	—	8.7	7.8	8.2	10.3
334	250	Robert Jenkins	252	—	31.3	12.4	3.5	8.9
59	51	Scruttons "A"	59	+1	5.3	9.0	9.1	8.4
222	161	Torday & Carlisle	161	—	10.7	6.6	5.2	9.6
15	10	Twinlock Ord	13½	—	—	—	—	—
80	66	Twinlock 15% ULS	78	+1	15.0	19.2	—	—
44	26	Unilock Holdings	26	—	3.0	11.5	4.6	7.9
103	73	Walter Alexander	76	—	6.4	8.4	5.0	8.8
263	212	W. S. Yeates	228	—	13.1	5.7	4.3	8.8

Prices now available on Prestel page 48146

VANTONA

Waiting for the Budget

Textile companies will be unsure of 1982 demand until after the Chancellor has announced his Budget on March 9. This was made clear yesterday by Mr Davoud Alliance, Vantona Group's chief executive, after he announced an increase in pre-tax profits from £4.29m to £5.84m for last year.

"There is no improvement in trading conditions on last year", Mr Alliance said. The group has managed to increase profits for the year to last November 29 even though sales are down by 3 per cent, at £104.19m.

Vantona has pressed on with a programme of increasing productivity, improving communications and every other method to become more profitable in a very difficult market. In the first half, probably as a result of an unexpectedly deflationary Budget, sales were 6.7 per cent down. During the second half, returning optimism was checked by an increase of 4 per cent in base lending rates in September. Sales in the second half, therefore, were only 1.6 per cent up on last year", the company says.

Vantonas earnings per share are up from 16.2p to 23.9p.

OCEONICS

Rise of a paper millionaire

Dealings in the Unlisted Securities Market group Oceonics begin next Tuesday after a placing yesterday by stockbrokers Simon and Coates of around 17 per cent of its shares with institutions. The placing, at 130p a share, gives the specialists in navigation and underwater exploration systems, a stock market price tag of £13m. In the process Mr Bob Aird, aged 34, who started the business seven years ago and is now its chairman, will become a paper millionaire whose half share at the placing price will be worth £7.8m.

Oceonics will raise almost £1.2m of new money to increase its manufacturing capacity in new high technology products, widen its equipment range and strengthen its market position particularly in South East Asia and America.

Examples of its products include underwater remote controlled vehicle systems, deep sea lighting and camera equipment and high technology ocean-bed buoys which give off electronic sounds over several miles through water.

Up to now Oceonics has survived on a capital base of £9, financing itself through cash flow and bank borrowings. In 1977, on a turnover of £135,000 it made profits of £26,000. For the six months to the end of last September it made £687,000 pre-tax on a turnover of £3.3m and it is forecasting profits of £1m for the year ending next month. But investors will have to wait a year for any dividends. Oceonics prospectus says it hopes to pay a gross 2.1428p for the year to March 1983.

MARCHWIEL

Recovery road

Marchwiel, the building and civil engineering group, is recovering from the disastrous trading period in 1980 when it lost heavily on a road project in the Sudan. Pre-tax profit for the year to the end of last October is up from £654,000 to £10.38m.

A final dividend of 4.2p, making 6.6p, as against 6p, has been announced. Mr Alfred McAlpine, the chairman says that current orders in Britain are higher than a year ago.

"In particular, the group has recently been awarded valuable road contracts, which together amount to more than £48m," he says. He will be disappointed if this year's contracting turnover and profit do not equal 1981 levels. Other subsidiaries in Britain should be a little better.

The South African mining company is making "excellent progress" but, elsewhere in Africa, competition for civil engineering work remains severe.

Turnover was £237.56m., down from £260.74m. Earnings per share are 28.4p, against 0.8p. Net assets per share are 189p against 164p. The news was in line with market expectations, and the share price came down 2p to 138p, against a high for 1981/2 of 154p.

On the Sudan contract Mr McAlpine says: "I am confident that the provisions we have made will prove adequate and we are vigorously pursuing a fair settlement of the contract which, if achieved, would lead to a measure of recovery."

The company's liquid resources are now £26m. During the year it announced the sale of an investment in R. Wild for £1.1m.

SECURITY CENTRES

£1.9m cash call

Security Centres Holdings, the burglar and fire alarm business run by Mr Stewart Jamieson, is to raise around £1.9m with a two-for-nine rights issue at 110p per share. The price yesterday stood at 138p on news of the issue and it gives existing shareholders a 28p discount.

The company has widened its United Kingdom and overseas operations by a series of acquisitions. Late last year it agreed to pay $250,000 (£136,000) for a third share in Video Applications, of Florida. This month, it bought Safeguard Alarms of Birmingham for £43,000 cash.

This is the second rights issue in 14 months. In December 1980 the company raised £1.1m to finance growth out of its Belfast base.

LATEST RESULTS

Company Int or Fin	Sales £m	Profits £m	Earnings per share	Div pence	Pay date	Year's total
Aquis Sc.(F)	—(—)	0.74(0.57)	1.52(0.96)	0.9(0.6)	1/5	1.2(0.9)
Comm. Union(F)	—(—)	81.7(103.2)	16.54(18.61)	6.95(6.4)	17/5	11.8(10.8)
1st Scot Am.Tst.(F)	—(—)	2.45(2.17)	4.91(4.57)	3.5(3.2)	20/4	4.8(4.5)
Grindlays(F)	—(—)	34.6(33.5)	16(22)	2.8(2.8)	29/4	4.1(4.1)
Herburger Brks(F)	2.29(2.69)	0.06(0.13)	—(—)	—(—)	—	—(—)
E. Jones(F)	10.99(9.97)	1.1(1.45)	7.3(12.6)	2.5(2.5)	2/4	3.9(3.9)
Marchwiel(F)	237(260)	10.3(0.65)	28.4(0.8)	4.2(3.6)	1/4	6.6(6)
Natwest (F)	—(—)	494(410)	183(134.5)	15.5(12.2)	5/4	25.2(21)
"Inv in Success"(F)	—(—)	0.53(0.53)	—(—)	3.84(3.7)	28/4	5.04(4.9)
Titaghur Jute(F)	29.4(36.2)	0.57(5.48)	38.0(380.6)	—(—)	—	—(—)
Vantona(F)	104(106)	5.84(4.29)	23.9(16.2)	5(5)	—	8.(8)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pretax and earnings are net.



National Westminster Bank

DEPOSITS £39,700m

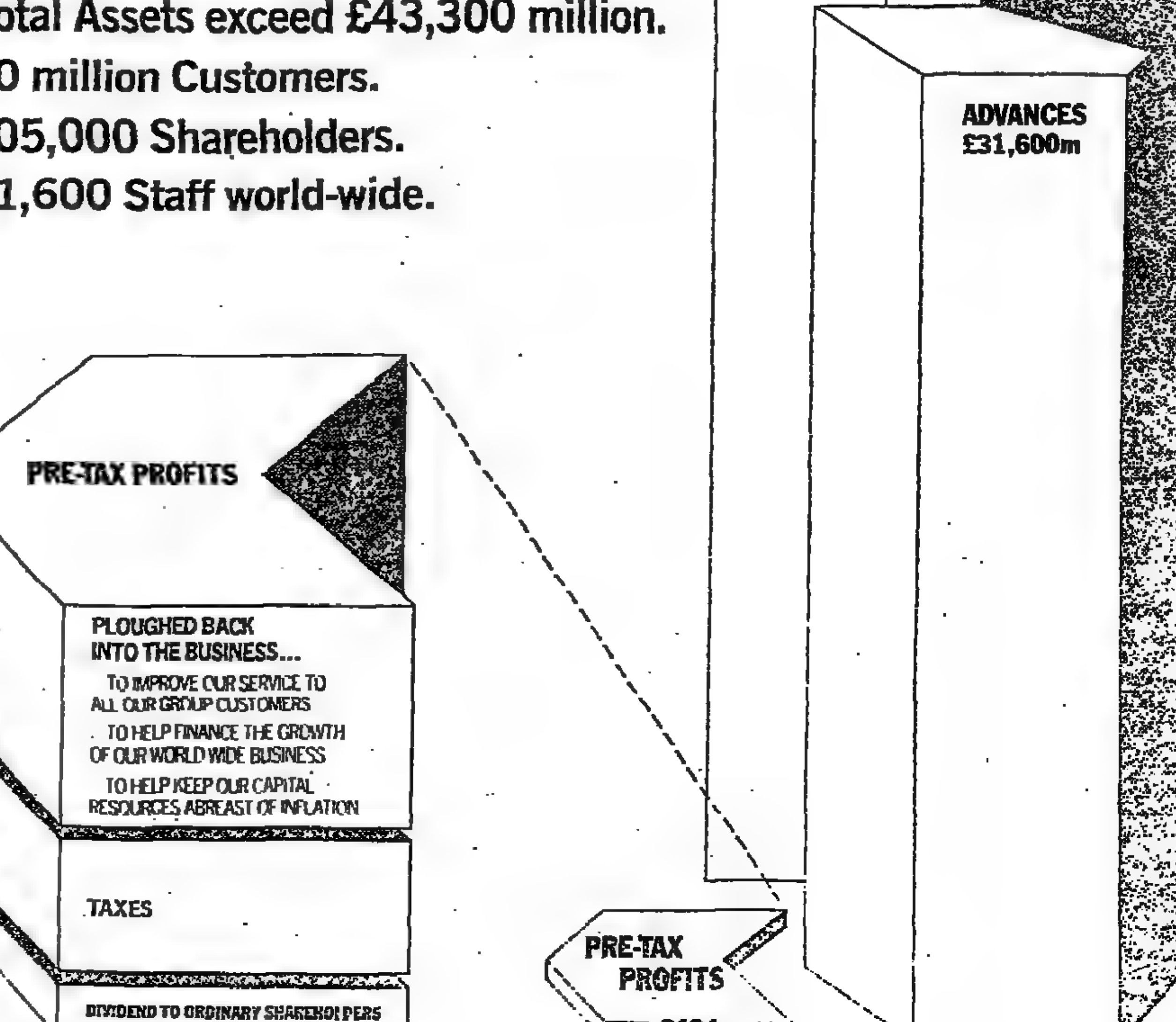
Group Profits for 1981 £494 million.

Total Assets exceed £43,300 million.

10 million Customers.

105,000 Shareholders.

81,600 Staff world-wide.



National Westminster Bank PLC, 41 Lothbury, London EC2P 2BP

SPORT

FOOTBALL

Jennings misery: England go ahead after 45 seconds

By Stuart Jones

England 4 Northern Ireland 0

Two late goals by Wilkins and Hoddle, after two by Keegan and Robson, gave Northern Ireland a jolt in the first match of their home international championship at Wembley last night.

The kick-off may have been two minutes late but England lost no time in producing an extraordinary opening. Within some 45 seconds Jennings, winning his 90th cap, was picking the ball out of his net. He has played in just three reserve team gates at Arsenal since January 2 and must have wished for a moment that he had failed his fitness test in the morning.

England kept possession from the start, won a free kick and Anderson released Francis on the edge of the penalty area. With one short burst of acceleration, seen all too little in the past eighteen months, Francis was passed Nelson and closing in on the bye-line. A crisp cross came over and Robson the only representative to play in all eight qualifying matches, merely tapped it home.

So incisive and so direct, it seemed too good to be true. Sadly, it was. England, faced by the threat of two strikers, one a second division reserve and the other playing in the third divison, supported their new central defensive partnership by stationing Wilkins behind them as sweeper. Hoddle was manacled by Donaghy, a centre half pushed into mid-field specifically for the task, and Keekan was often forced to drap back in the search for possession.

It was there in the tangled undergrowth in midfield that England, as has become their custom, struggled to break free. There was little nign of the flowing confidence of Hoddle, who has been so outstanding for his club this season, and none of the surging runs from Francis, the opening apart. Keegan and Morley a ghostly figure on the distant touchline.

Significantly two defenders advanced to produce England's other chances before the interval. First Anderson dispossessed McIlroy, rounded Nelson and closed in on goal only be be denied by Chris Nicholl. Then Watson, at the age of 35, rumbled forward to meet a low cross from Francis but his efforts were deflected wide. Keegan driving rather than chipping on the green sward, also missed an opportunity.

Northern Ireland, shaken by their early setback, recovered the spirit and the endeavour for which they have become renowned. McIlroy clipped the bar with a corner and then took advantage of an error by Foster, the debutante, to run through the middle of England's defence only to shoot straight at Clemence. He repeated the feat later but Donaghy closed a disappointing first half by shaving Clemence's right hand post from some 25 yards.

Yet the Irish were caught cold again at the dawn of the second as England warmed to their task. There was a similarity about the goal as well. Anderson was again one of the original sources down the right and Francis once more supplied the cross, this time a high curling centre, and once more the white-shirted attacker was standing on his own, this time Keegan, enjoying such a prolific season at Southampton, who guided it in with his head.

A rare flash of Hoddle's talent, a reverse pass inside the area, set Keegan free but Jennings saved as competently then as he did ten minutes later. The glancing header that forehead of Regis, with his first touch as a full international. Francis had given way and Brotherston was also replaced by Cochrane.



Sir Matt : studying the sport's laws with a view to changing them.

European dates agreed

Valencia, Feb 23.—A provisional programme for European championship qualifying group seven was agreed here today by representatives from all countries in the group except Malta, who could not attend.

Th eprogramme will be finalized after consultation with the Maltese football federation. The representatives met here as it is the venue for tomorrow night's friendly international between Spain and Scotland. The programme is :



1982: June 6: Iceland v Malta (provisional); September 1: Iceland v Netherlands; September 22: Netherlands v Ireland; October 13: Ireland v Iceland; October 27: Spain v Iceland; November 17: Ireland v Spain; December 19: Malta v Netherlands.
1983: February 16: Spain v Netherlands; March 9: Malta v Ireland (prov.); April 27: Spain v Ireland; May 15: Malta v Spain; May 27: Iceland v Spain; September 27: Netherlands v Iceland; September 21: Iceland v Ireland; October 12: Ireland v Netherlands; October 26: Malta v Iceland (prov.); November 16: Netherlands v Spain; November 16: Ireland v Malta (prov.); December 18: Netherlands v Malta; December 21: Spain v Malta.—Agence France-Presse.

Chance to attack is missed

League stays in midfield muddle

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

The Football League chairmen, like the game itself, seem trapped within the confines of a midfield crowded with self interest and self preservation. After two days in Solihull they emerged with barely an attacking idea between them and have again allowed the chance to break away towards the ultimate goal, a bright future, pass them by.

Although individual clubs have been queueing up like lemmings on the edge of the precipice, the few safety barriers that have been proposed are on the wrong cliff. A streamlining of the first two divisions and the regionalization of the bottom two was the most immediate answer to the many problems, but that recommendation was apparently scarcely considered.

The fear voiced by Bert Millichip, the chairman of the Football Association and of West Bromwich Albion, is that the subsequent reduction of fixtures would lead to smaller aggregate attendances. Is that not misguided? Surely the best way to persuade the seven-and-a-half million potential customers to rise from their armchairs, reach into their pockets and go to matches is to increase the quality and decrease the quantity.

Whether the chairmen like it or not that may be the case next season anyway. It is estimated that a dozen clubs are in danger of losing their biggest game of all and going into liquidation before summer arrives. It needs only one to fall and others, as everyone accepts, are sure to follow.

It is also estimated that a quarter of the professional players will join the lengthy dole queue at the end of this season as clubs trim their main expenditure, the wage bill.

The proposal concerning the immediate settlement of transfer fees was rejected by the chairmen at their last seminar two years ago. At least they have seen the wisdom of accepting it now. The two-year ban on the signing of players outside the EEC was equally laudable, as was the strengthening of the "gentlemen's agreement" concerning the poaching of managers.

Little else was produced by Sunday's meeting except the empty promise of a change in the laws. A team headed by Sir Matt Busby is to examine them.

FIFA must approve them for a start and by the time they have been dragged through the tangle of bureaucracy it is unlikely that Sir Matt's "think tank" will have much to show for their efforts. Besides, it is not so much the laws that need amending but the general attitude, as competitive as it is stale, that requires a long overdue overhaul.

Ban on Taylor lifted

Tommy Taylor, who ... from Orient last we... re-instated. But he ... to complete a 14-da...

Taylor was strip... Orient captaincy and ... no future at the club ... Knighton, the manag... FA Cup fifth round ... Crystal Palace. Mr K... upset by comments T...

The dispute was ... yesterday after a meeting be... the manager, the player, Mr ... Winston, the Orient chairma... Mr Gordon Taylor, secreta... the Professional Foot... Association.

Taylor apologized for his ... ments and behaviour

Middlesbrough ma... Knowles top coach

Middlesbrough have pro... Cyril Knowles, former Spu... England full back to be fir... coach.

Knowles, aged 37, takes ... from John Coddington who ... be in charge of the reserv... made more than 500 first-... appearances for Spurs and jo... Middlesbrough as second te... coach last summer.

Charlie George ma... join Bournemouth

Charlie George, the ... Arsenal, Derby and ... ton striker, who re... turned to Britain aft... stay in Hongkong, ... Bournemouth on a ... match basis if he c...

Mr David Webb, ... mouth manager, sa... agreed terms with ... is geting fit and ... stay in the south ... to him."

Ball and McN... disrepute cha...

Alan Ball, of So... Neil McNab of ... appear before an ... commission on F... a charge of brin... into disrepute.

They were rep... after clashing a... five-a-side exhi... between Brighton ... 1.

MONDAY'S ...

Fourth division
York (1) 2 ...
Ford
Hood pen
Scottish Cup
Fourth round sec...
Hibernian (0) 0 ...

FOOTBALL COMBI... Town 0, Bristol Rover... SOUTHERN LEAGUE ... sion: Enderby Town 1, ... 3. Southern division: D... 2.
MIDDLESEX SENIOR ... round: Enfield 6, Hampto... Wealdstone 2, Hillingdon B... ISTHMIAN LEAGUE: Pre... sion: Croydon 0, Staines ... Billericay 0, Dulwich Hamlet 0... Cup: Wembley 3, Farnbo... (a.e.t.).
LONDON SENIOR CUP ... 2, Boreham Wood 3 (a.e.t.).
OTHER MATCH: Southampt... IFK Göteborg 2.
RUGBY UNION: Club ... Newbridge 22, Pontypridd 9; ... 26, South Glamorgan Institute ...

Wingless to victory Scotland hope

From Norman Fox, Valencia, Feb 23

Scotland, wingless but with the potential to score several goals, could severely damage the morale of the World Cup hosts, Spain, and bolster their own here in a "friendly" match tomorrow night. Wark, Brazil and Dalglish hope to drive straight through the middle of Spain's improving defence.

This is the first time under the management of Jock Stein that no winger has been seen. Mr Stein assumes that with Gray roaming the touchline from the back and the Ipswich pair, Brazil and Wark, ready to move wide as they do for their club, the side will not lose their continuity of style. His theory is that Wark and Brazil will give Dalglish space to irritate the Spaniards who, he says, are desperately keen not to lose here on one of the scenes of their World Cup festival in June.

The team chosen contains a large number of changes from the side who lost their last World Cup qualifying game in Portugal in November. Rough returns in goal, McGrain resumes his long career at fullback and recaptures the captaincy from Hartford. McLeish is in the centre of defence instead of Miller, while Provan gives way to Wark. Sturrock, who will be arriving late after a club game for Dundee United, will forfeit his place to Brazil. Archibald might have been retained had he not only recently recovered from an injury.

Mr Stein says he is not taking chances on players who are "over the hill." The comment will be recognized by Ron Greenwood, the England manager, who will be here tomorrow. Mr Stein anticipates that Spain will be defensively strong and play "on the break" as they did against England last year.

But Zamora, one of their most enterprising attack builders, will not be seen. He is injured ; however, Satrustegui and Quini form a dangerous attacking partnership and Lopez Ufarte returns in place of Saura.

If Scotland, with their fanatical supporters, think they are under pressure as the World Cup looms, their tension is nothing compared to Spain's.

The hosts have been stretched —almost torn—by political infighting among club officials who are anxious that if the eventual team lacks some local favourite it will not be for the want of propaganda.

Several times in the past three months it has been rumoured that José Santamaria, the international manager, was about to lose his job. His critics invariably have some personal axe to grind. Mr Stein may sometimes wonder whether he is including an undiplomatic number of Anglos, but the problem hardly compares with the outrage here when, for instance, Real Madrid appear to be favoured ahead of Barcelona.

One such argument before Christmas almost cost Mr Santamaria his job. All he did was experiment without Juanito, the clever Real Madrid player who was notoriously unreliable. Juanito remains out of favour.

A nagging leg injury could put Gordon Strachan, the midfield player out of the game, however. He went to hospital today for x-ray on his left leg after complaining of feeling pain during last night's training session.

SPAIN (probable): L. Arconada; J Camacho, M Tendillo, J Alesanco, R Gordillo, Gallego, L Victor, M Alonso, Quini, Satrustegui, Lopez, L Ufarte.

SCOTLAND: A Rough, D McGrain, A McLeish, A Hansen, F Gray, G Souness, G Strachan, A Hartford, J Wark, K Dalglish, A Brazil.

Referee: P. Thomas (The Netherlands).

Spanish security

Spanish police said that today's security operation for the Spain v Scotland game would be a trial run for the World Cup. A police spokesman said fans would be prevented from taking alcohol into the Luis Casanova stadium in Valencia and would be searched for knives or other potentially dangerous sharp instruments. Barkeepers have been told to stop serving drinks to drunken fans

Scots Saint in Italy

Italy U21 0 Scotland U21 1

Catanzaro, Feb 23.—Scotland upset Italy in this first-leg match of the European championship quarter-final round here today. A powerful shot by McAvennie, of St Mirren, in the thirty-seventh minute boosted Scotland's chances of reaching the semi-final round. The return leg is in Aberdeen on March 14.

Scotland, showing better teamwork, easily controlled the fanciful and confused attacks of the Italians and staged fast and dangerous counterattacks. McAvennie's goal came from a cross by Stewart that was missed by an Italian defender.

The Romanian referee showed the yellow card to Stewart, McCluskey, McLaughlin and Borghi. McAvennie, McCluskey and Stewart were Scotland's stars. The winners of this round will play Poland or England in the next round.

SCOTLAND: Leighton; Stewart, Nicoll, Simpson, McLaughlin, Gillespie, Bett, McAvennie, McCluskey, Redford, McDonald.

ITALY: Zinetti; Bergomi, Nela, Baresi, Tassotti, Celestini, Mauro, Battistini, Borghi, Romano, Sivi.—AP.

Alberto is forgiven

New York, February 23—Julio Mazzei, the new manager of Cosmos, has re-signed the Brazilian Carlos Alberto. Mr Mazzei replaces Hennes Weisweiler, who was dismissed 10 days ago. Mr Mazzei harshly criticized Mr Weisweiler for both his tactics and lack of communication with his players an dthe local football community.

Mr Mazzei said Mr Weisweiler's style produced a mechanical and boring game. He also thought the West German manager's long suspension of the Dutch player Neeskens and the dismissal of Alberto was wrong. Alberto fell foul of Mr Weisweiler a year ago when he missed the opening of the North American Soccer League training camp at the Bahamas.

Alberto claimed Mr Weisweiler gave him permission to attend the 1981 carnival only to punish him later. Alberto signed with California Surf last season before returning in December to play for Erol Yasin, the Cosmos' indoor coach. Mr Weisweiler was on holiday in Europe and unavailable for comment.

Tom Werblin, the Cosmos' general manager, emphasized that Mr Mazzei's appointment was only temporary. "We are scouring the world for someone who is known as an international coach", Mr Werblin said. Mr Mazzei, Pele's mentor and friend since 1965 when both were with Santos came to Cosmos in 1975. Four years later, Mr Mazzei replaced the head coach Eddie Firmani. He was in charge for the first five games of the 1980 season until Mr Weisweiler arrived in May.

"I'm going to try my best to bring back to the Cosmos that kind of game where you are smiling after you watch it, even if you lose the game", Mr Mazzei said. "Last season, I watched as a spectator, and I had that kind of feeling . . . at the end of the game, when you won the game 4—0, you won the game but nothing happened. It looked to me that there was too much mechanics.

Cosmos will take on the national team of Peru at Giants Stadium in an exhibition match, it was announced on Monday. Peru will play the game on April 4 as part of their pre-World Cup

BOXING

Graham should repel challenge

Herol Graham, the British and Commonwealth light-middleweight champion and best young boxer of 1981, starts 1982 with a double title defence tonight. Since the opposition does not appear to be in top championship class, Graham's titles should not be in danger, the Press Association writes.

Graham meets Chris Christian, of Stoke Newington, at City Hall, Sheffield, where he is regarded with the same affection as another local hero, Sebastian Coe.

Christian's title chance was hard-earned. He outpointed the former British Champion, Jimmy Batten, over eight rounds, though the verdict was hotly contested by Batten's connexions. Then he beat Steve Hopkin, a rugged East Anglian, who had already fought for the title and lost. It was on cuts and therefore not entirely conclusive, but it was an official eliminator.

Graham is not an exciting boxer, but he has exceptional technical skill and a good defence. He is a counter-puncher of class and, if he has a fault, it is that he wastes energy by being over-elaborate ; he is not the greatest stayer in the world.

Graham proved his class by winning both his titles easily, and Christian's determination is not likely to match the class and experience of the champion. Graham should win on points more quickly if he decides to stir himself.

Cattousse's chance : Joe Gibilisco, the hard-hitting Italian, puts his European lightweight crown at stake against Ray Cattouse, of Britain in southern Italy tonight.

It will be the second title defence for Gibilisco, the 23-year-old champion. He often takes risks with his attacking style. Cattouse, from Balham, said on his arrival in Campobasso, where the bout is being held, that he was confident.

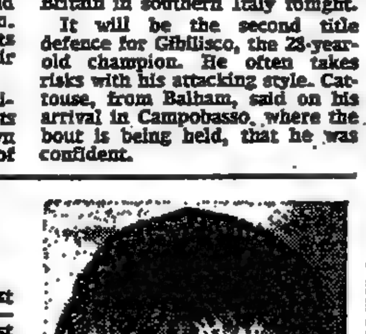
Magri jumps the queue

Charlie Magri could be the next Briton to box for a world title—at Wembley on May 4, against the WBC flyweight champion, Antonio Avelar, of Mexico.

Magri surrendered his number one rating when he was surprisingly knocked out by Antonio Diaz, another Mexican, at the Royal Albert Hall last September. By staying in the top ten, however, he qualifies to box for the world title.

A deal was completed in Los Angeles yesterday by the promoter, Micky Duff, and Magri will be offered the chance to meet Avelar in a $250,000 title bout, bypassing Diaz and others

So far, Magri's manager, Terry Lawless, has not accepted.



Magri : title chance

CRICKET

£3,000 in the bag

England's cricketers had the surprise of the winter waiting for them when they arrived at Trivandrum in southern India yesterday to play a benefit match for Govind Bawji, the tour baggageman, Press Association writes. As they walked bleary-eyed onto the patch after the last night of tour celebrations in Sri Lanka, they were greeted by opposition of unexpected strength.

The chief minister of Kerala's XI included eight of the Indian Test cricketers under Sunil Gavaskar, the captain, and for a brief period England feared they were in for a full one-day international rather than a 40 over knockabout.

However, once Keith Fletcher sent in Jack Richards and Ian Botham to open the batting after losing the toss. Gavaskar entered the spirit of the day and all tension evaporated.

England were bowled out in 37.2 overs for 263. Their main contributions came from Mike Gatting (48), Graham Gooch (37) and 44 from Fletcher

After the groundstaff had put out a grassfire which started on the bone dry outfield, the Indians set off at a cracking pace. Over 100 runs came from the first ten overs bowled by Mike Gatting and Paul Allott, 75 of them in 38 minutes from the flashing bat of Krish Srikkanth, the Test opener.

After that it was plain sailing as the Indians passed England's total with five wickets down and 7.1 of their 40 overs to spare. As an end-of-tour jaunt it was an amusing day and Govind's trust fund has benefited to the tune of 54,000 Indian rupees (over £3,000).

The England party leave for home tonight and are due to arrive at Gatwick tomorrow morning.

SCORE: England 263 in 37.2 overs; Chief Minister of Kerala's XI 265 for five (K Srikkanth, 75).

☐ Australia's practice for the first cricket Test against New Zealand in Wellington on Friday was hit badly in Napier today when the second day of their three-day match against the North Island was rained out without a ball being bowled.

Officials suggested that a one-day match be played tomorrow but Alan Crompton, the Australian manager, said his team preferred to continue with the three-day fixture to glean as much practice as possible

When rain intervened yesterday, four Australian batsmen were back in the pavilion with only 134 runs on the board.

Test players' uprising

Lahore, Pakistan, Feb 23.—Nine of Pakistan's leading Test cricketers declared open revolt today when they said they would not play under Javed Miandad, their captain. They made their move two days before the arrival of the Sri Lankan team who are visiting Pakistan for a three-Test series.

The nine who said in a joint statement they would not play under Javed Miandad are : Majid Khan, Zaheer Abbas, Imran Khan, Wasim Raja, Sarfraz Nawaz, Mudassar Nazar, Iqbal Qasim, Mohsin Khan and Sikandar Bakht.

The president of the Pakistan Cricket Board, Mr Nur Khan, said last Saturday that Miandad, who led Pakistan in the recent series against Australia which they lost, would continue as captain against Sri Lanka and in England later in the year.

The nine players said they were taking their action because of allegations by the board president that some players did not cooperate with Miandad in Australia. They said the allegations were instigated by Miandad.

"Since it is of utmost importance that there should be confidence and cooperation among the captain and his team members, the allegations made against certain members have generated an uneasy feeling among the players about Javed Miandad's ability to lead the team. We, therefore, make ourselves unavailable to play for Pakistan under his leadership", the players statement said.

Mr Khan declined to comment on the players' rebellion. The board are expected to consider the situation tomorrow.—Reuter.

● Yorkshire's full general committee has named Sunday, March 7 as the day on which the report and recommendations of the so-called in-depth committee will be considered in detail. Recently, the proposals were given an initial airing.

These include suggestions on healing the breach between Geoffrey Boycott and the team manager Ray Illingworth.

● A report making recommendations about the future of the cricket festivals at Bath and Weston super Mare was completed yesterday by Somerset county cricket club. There have been moves to end the festivals for financial reasons and play all games at Taunton which has a new £400,000 pavilion. A decision will be announced in May. This year's festivals will go ahead.

SQUASH RACK...

Youth an... experien... in final

Jahangir Khan wh... Geoff Hunt, 16 year... months his senior, ... seeded to contest t... the International Squ... Association champ... Abbeydale Park, Sh... March 10—the eve of ... birthday.

This tournament ... augurated at Abbey... four years ago, and ... British national ch... contested on the same ... December, it is spo... Thornton's, the B... confectioners.

There will be 64 ... draw when the ch... begins next Wednes... Jahangir and Hunt wil... the event even when th... on court. Last Nove... precocious Pakistani be... the final of the world ... ship in Toronto (the... they met) and it is re... predict that, at Bromle... Jahangir will also clos... on Hunt's record-breaki... eight British open cham...

It was at Abbeydale ... ago that Hunt won ... British Open title. He ... to do with the organizat... ISPA and the associat... two championships were ... Abbeydale. He now r... the club for the first ... he won the ISPA cha... there in 1979.

All that, together ... proximity of his birth... this a sentimental jour... most successful play... history of the game.

Hunt holds the ISPA ... cannot be expected to ... Jahangir has clearly mo... of him and is still improv... seedings suggest that t... eight will line up as fo... Jahangir (Pakistan) v ... Williams (Australia), ... Watson (South Africa) v ... Awad (Egypt), Maqsood ... (Pakistan) v Ross Norma... Zealand) and Gawain Bria... v Hunt (Australia).

Even the goo... look pedestri...

The mantle of world ... has not affected the pr... Jahangir Khan, writes ... Correspondent. Since la... ber when he deposed G... as champion in Toront... won three more big ti... fresh from victory in ... lin Open on Sunday ov... Jahan, his appetite was ... ished in the first round ... Lookers Masters tourna...

Mohammed Asran is ... player but he was made ... pedestrian against Jah... Asran started the first game ... but once his opponent g... feel of the court at the ... squash club the pace and ... of the world champion be... flow.

RESULTS: Jahangir Khan ... Mohammed Asran 9—5, ... R Watson beat Mohammed Yas... 9—2, 9—2.

Geoffrey Green has just seen the future in the past—and it works

Passing the ball back to Rowe

George Best : the outstanding winger of one manager's lifetime.

In half a century only a handful of managers have offered an original idea to English football. Not all of their experiments have been good for the game but at least they were radical.

Carwyn James, the distinguished Welsh rugby authority, once asked me about future development in the association code. Referring slyly to the philosophy of his own game, where progress in the main is made by passing backwards, I suggested, tongue in cheek, that soccer also might advance by looking backwards and returning to a pattern of one goalkeeper and 10 forwards.

It was a bit of light-hearted nonsense, of course, but there is an accolade awaiting the man who will devize a way to end the dreary midfield stalemate and the back and side passing that has crippled the game in recent years.

But to return to these few thinkers. First there was Herbert Chapman, who produced the original third back defensive centre-half system to defeat the 1925 change in the offside law. Though it brought great success to Arsenal, in the long term I believe it harmed football. At his side must stand Sir Alf Ramsey, whose 4—3—3 side of "wingless wonders" won England the World Cup of 1966 but cast a blight on entertainment.

Arthur Rowe, by contrast, achieved the attractive "push and run" style that brought a bloom of beauty and excitement to Tottenham Hotspur in the 1950s. Bill Nicholson and Bertie Mee, though not original thinkers, at least achieved discipline and teamwork—not to mention the talent of Blanchflower at White Hart Lane—to a fine pitch when achieving the League and FA Cup double for Spurs and Arsenal in 1961 and 1971, when it was thought to be beyond anyone's scope in the twentieth-century pressure cooker.

Finally, one should touch the forelock to Sir Matt Busby and Manchester United for opening the doors to European competition in opposition to the parochial attitude of the Football League.

Rowe, now retired but still a thinker, is an *eminence grise*. His opinions are widely respected. A coach on the Continent in the footsteps of Jimmy Hogan before the war, he was offered in 1939 the post of Hungarian national team manager. War intervened. A pupil of the great Peter McWilliam, the founding father of the modern Spurs, Rowe admits that his "push and run" was not entirely original.



Arthur Rowe : A thinker who founded the radical philosophy of push-and-run child's play.

"I merely evolved the idea after watching kids running down a street flicking a tennis ball against a wall and collecting the instant rebound," he said. "The 'wall pass', 1—2, touch play or 'push and run'—call it what you will—was developed at Tottenham

"Played well from tight positions, it put a defender out of the game at a stroke. That's what we need more of today rather than all the lateral and back passing that bores people. Your answer to Carwyn James was a joke in the extreme. But, yes—though perhaps I shouldn't say it—I believe soccer could go forward by moving backwards 30 years."

Rowe, a Spurs player in his day, gained one cap for England in 1934 as centre-half and the game has been his life. His memories and judgments go deep. "George Best I consider the outstanding winger in my lifetime, with Matthews and Finney equal second. At centre forward, Di Stefano and Tommy Lawton get my vote. At wing half Bozsik, the Hungarian, Burgess, Blanchflower, Duncan Edwards and Matt Busby are my choice. Matt's passing had an elegant certainty about it matched later by Bobby Charlton in his salad days."

SPORT

ROUND-UP

SHOW/JUMPING

Fletcher follows suit

Graham Fletcher has become the second top British amateur show jumper in a week to turn his back on the Olympics. The Yorkshireman, aged 31, has followed Nick ...ton ... to the professional ...ng a contract with ...K... ...mited, a subsi... ...man-based audio ...pany.

...o rode for Britain ... Montreal Olympics, ...kelton in the team ... silver medal at the ...mpensatory games", ..., in 1980, when the ...t was boycotted.

As a regular performer in Nations Cup teams, he has accumulated 36 points, 11 more than the total needed to qualify for the right to ride horses with a commercial title.

Under the terms of the three-year contract, Fletcher's horses, Preachan and Hodgson's Choice, will have the names changed to Schneider Trendsetter and Schneider Power Pack.

Fletcher's switch further reduces the list of experienced riders now eligible to ride for Britain at the 1984 Olympics.

GYMNASTICS


...ew Morris: number three ... country

What working down mines does for you

Wales has always produced first class male gymnasts, and enthusiasts in the Principality say that their superior muscular development is inherited from the male tradition of working down the mines. And it is a Welshman, Arthur Whitford, who has pride of place for British gymnastics in the Guinness Book of Records who won the British championship 10 times between 1928 and 1936 and again in 1939. Happily he is still a keen spectator at the main events. A young man who is making his mark in the resurgence of this sport in Wales is 20-year-old Andrew Morris.

RUGBY LEAGUE

...vers' ticket to France

...nt lease-end talks ...s in Great Britain ...rked by last week... ... international in ... to talks of Ton... ...h club, making a ...gan, the interna... ...and utility back ...ton Rovers. ... yesterday's an... ...t Rochdale Hor... ...g an interest in the captain and loose forward of the France under-24 team, Roland Puech.

Phil Larder, the former Oldham centre, who has also played for Whitehaven, has been appointed director of coaching of the Rugby League national coaching scheme. Larder, who will take up the post in May, is head of physical education at Saddleworth School. He turned professional from Sale, the Rugby Union club, in 1968.

... speedy ...ordan

...rnia, Feb 23.— ... the champion, ...minutes to rout a ..., Barbara Jordan, ...e first round of ...akland women's ... was Miss Jaeger's ... she won a tour... ...t two weeks ago. ...cond behind her ...s Lloyd.

...(US unless stated): ...ly) beat P Casale ... A Kiyomura beat ...—3; K Lathan beat ...—1; L Allen beat K ...2; A Jaeger beat B ...1; W Turnbull (Aus... ...Medrado (Brazil) 6—3. ... (Romania) beat B J ...—2, 6—3.

Tears of joy for golden Braa

Holmenkollen, February 23— Oddvar Braa won the 15 kilometre race here today in the fastest time in a world championships 38 minutes 52.5 seconds.

Norwegians around the finish line were weeping as Braa came in, and others danced a victory jig in the snow. It was Norway's fourth gold in six events at the championships.

15 KILOMETRES: 1, O Braa (Norway), 38min 52.5sec; 2, A Zavialov (USSR), 39:02.1; 3, S Kirvesniemi (Finland), 39:02.3; 4, Y Burlakov (USSR), 39:14.4; 5, A Batiuk (USSR), 39:19.8.

70 METRE JUMP: 1, East Germany, 650pts; 2, Norway, 623.6; 3, Finland, 613.5.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

...70 unless stated. ...ATIONAL MATCH: Spain v ... (Valencia). ...ND DIVISION: Barnsley v ... City; Newcastle United v ... Wednesday. ...D DIVISION: Millwall v ...don. ...RTH DIVISION: Bradford City ...; Torquay United v Crewe ...dra. ...SH CUP: Quarter finals: Bangor ... Shrewsbury Town; Hereford ... v Greenfield. ...LIANCE PREMIER LEAGUE: ...vil Town v Dartford. ...OUTHERN LEAGUE: Cup: semi-... second leg: Aylesbury v Glou...er City; Wealdstone v Dorchester. ...land division: Alvechurch v Chel...ham. Southern division: Dover v ...estone. ...ORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: ...borough v Grantham. ...ENTRAL LEAGUE: Blackpool v ...rton (7.0); Nottingham Forest v ...chester United (7.0); West Brom... Albion v Manchester City (7.0). ...OOTBALL COMBINATION: Ply...uth Argyle v Swindon Town (2.30); ...ding v Bristol Rovers; Southampton ...swich Town; Watford v Oxford ...ted. ...IDLAND LEAGUE: Alfreton v ...on Town; Heanor v Belper. ...ISH CUP: Second rnd replay: Ards ...tillery (4.0). ...THMIAN LEAGUE: First division: ...nor Regis v Feltham (at Waterloo-ville FC). Second division: Barton Rovers v Letchworth GC.

ATHENIAN LEAGUE: Edgware v Hoddesdon.

OTHER MATCHES: Barnet v QPR XI; Crystal Palace v IFK Gothenburg.

RUGBY UNION: Club matches: Cambridge University v Anti-Assassins (2.30); Civil Service v Royal Navy (2.30); Clifton v RAF (2.30); Plymouth Albion v Exeter University (7.15); Swansea v South Glamorgan Institute (7.0). Representative matches: Middlesex County Clubs v English Colleges (Centaurs RFC, 3.0); United Banks v Kent (Natwest Bank RF, Lower Sydenham, 2.15). Other matches: Abbey v Streatham-Croydon; RAF Brize Norton v Thames Valley Police (2.30); London Universities v ...ish Universities (Motspur Park, 2.30).

...CKEY: Representative match: Civil Service v RAF (at Chiswick). London League: London University v Guildford. UAU Championship: Semi-final replay: Exeter v Loughborough (at Cheltenham College, 2.30).

ATHLETICS: SCWAAA open meeting (Crystal Palace); Aldershot winter ... meeting (Aldershot military stadium).

BADMINTON: England v Japan v Sweden (Huddersfield SC).

CROSS COUNTRY: London Colleges League (Trent Park); London Services League (Mill Hill).

SQUASH RACKETS: Kegworth three counties championships (Kegworth SRC, Derby).

ROWING

Who can head Oriel?

By Jim Railton

...riel, the last male bastion at ...ord university, make an ...empt to underline their ...remacy in the Oxford Torpids ...ch begin today. Oriel's main ...eats appear to be their ...mediate pursuers, Keble and ...rcester. Oriel have had an ...settled term with their plastic ...t breaking up and training in ...borrowed shell while waiting ... their eight, to be repaired. ...y are considered not to be ... the class of the many fine ...el head crews over the last decade. However, the question remains whether, vulnerable as they might appear, they can be toppled.

Keble have come on recently, but many fancy the heavyweight Worcester crew, who have not been head for over 50 years. In the women's competition Lady Margaret Hall are favourites to become head crew. Osler House are likely to be the fastest women's eight with heavy promotion promised, but starting in 12th position today rules out the remotest thought of headship.

End for Lady Margaret?

...ady Margaret's seven-year ...n as head of the Cambridge ...t bumps seems likely to end ... week. Favourites to take the ...dship are Clare but they will ...d to bump every night, but ...uld Pembroke and Trinity ..., the crews between them and ...ly Margaret bump, their ...nce will go.

...wo weeks ago the defenders were well beaten at Peterborough Head where Clare were the second fastest college behind Downing, out in a class of their own. Downing, however, start seventh and so would need an over bump, which would be on Clare, to go ahead!

Lower down Sidney should rise. Caius immediately behind have to wait a day before they, too, climb.

...ennis upset

...Monterrey, Mexico, Feb 23.— ...tz Buehning of West Germany ...sed the first upset of the ...nterry grand prix tennis tour...ment here today when he beat ...hth seed Hank Pfister of the ...ted States 7—5, 6—2 in a first ...nd match.

...rst round: US unless stated: John ...xander (Australia) beat Lloyd Bourne ...stralia) 6—0, 6—4; Morris Strode ... Eric Iskersky 7—5, 6—3; Ron ...wer beat Rick Fagel 6—3, 6—3, ...s Manson beat David Carter 5—7, ... 6—3, Sammy Giammalva beat Van ...sky 3—6, 6—3, 6—2; Chip Hooper ... Tim Wilkison 7—6, 6—4; Fritz ...ning (W Ger) beat Hank Pfister ..., 6—2.—AFP.

The top 10 ranking of the Association of Tennis Professionals are:

Players	Average Pts
John McEnroe (US)	103.50
Jimmy Connors (US)	79.00
Ivan Lendl (Czechoslovakia)	77.39
Bjorn Borg (Sweden)	68.33
Jose-Luis Clerc (Argentina)	63.20
Guillermo Vilas (Argentina)	57.31
Gene Mayer (US)	45.21
Eliot Teltscher (US)	44.69
Vitas Gerulaitis (US)	39.08
Johan Kriek (SA)	39.07

...own duals

...e first British open pairs ...h green bowls championship ...e held at Rhyl from August ...26 and will carry more than ...0 prize money.

...tzky poised

...oit.—Wayne Gretzky, the ...ckey player, equalled the ...al League scoring record ...s 76th goal of the season ...monton Oilers here. Phil ...o set the record in the ... season.—Agence France-

Hopkins and Rose in Welsh Youth squad

Jeff Hopkins, the Fulham full back, and David Rose, Millwall's midfield player, ade in the Welsh squad for the European Youth championship match against Holland at Cardiff on March 9.

SQUAD: Dibble (Cardiff); Harrington (Chester); Hopkins (Fulham); Richards (Swansea), Saunders (Cardiff), Slatter (Bristol Rovers), Holtham (Cardiff), Hughes (Manchester United), Bowen (Tottenham), Rose (Millwall), Blackmoor (Manchester United), Gale (Swansea), Rodgers (Aston Villa), Maynard (Cardiff), Allen (Chester), Powell (Tranmere). The return match will be played in Holland in March 30.

RUGBY

Paying the penalty for breaking the rules

By Nicholas Keith

The penalty goal has come in for some harsh criticism this season. It seems to be playing an increasingly important role in deciding the fate of international matches.

The value of a penalty (three points) is excessive, it is said, compared with only four points for a try. Besides, many penalties are for technical offences.

However, rules are made to be observed, as David Hands argued persuasively after Gwyn Evans had kicked six penalties in Wales's victory over France last month. Players cut corners and usually accept "philosophically" the referee's decision against them, he wrote.

Now we have a view from Wales that the International Board are unlikely to make any changes in the value of penalties—perhaps this is not surprising after the manner of their win over the French. From the other side of the channel comes a clutch of recommendations to make referee's decisions more uniform.

France suffered again last Saturday when "Dusty" Hare kicked 19 points for England, including five penalties. At times the French seemed bewildered by the decisions of the referee, Mr Rea, but they were undoubtedly guilty of too many infringements.

Hermos Evans, senior vice-president of the Welsh Rugby Union and a member of the IB, said: "Reducing the value of the penalty from three points to two is not necessarily the answer". He does not believe that the flood of penalties in this season's five nations' championship will lead to a change in the scoring.

"What needs to be looked at is the awarding of so many penalties—why they are happening, and where," Mr Evans said. "There is a case now for only giving a penalty for foul play. Perhaps we should extend the free kick to cover all other offences." The lineout certainly needs to be examined again and laws 18 and 19 governing the dribble and the releasing of the ball are causing problems.

The French are perplexed, but they are not blaming the indiscipline of their players or persnickety referees. The rules are to blame, they feel. So they are looking for a simplification of the laws and for referees to be brought into a uniform line.

Georges Domercq, the first Frenchman to referee a five nations match, said that players mattered most and referees should not be allowed to take over. It is not hard to know the rules, but it is another matter to apply them in the true spirit of the game. Now the players do not know what to expect and each referee has his own interpretation.

One of France's top club referees, Jean Magendie, a 32-year-old policeman, said: "A referee these days just can't afford to make a mistake. He is attacked from all sides. Dissension is everywhere these days and often a referee leaves behind nothing but enemies after a match." I tell you, it's going to become harder and harder to find men willing to take this each weekend."


Hare: punished French offences by kicking 19 points.

France spurn chance of experimenting

By David Hands

With an almost perceptible Gallic shrug the French selectors have made only two changes in personnel against Scotland at Murrayfield on March 6. Perhaps they feel there are few options open to them any longer, perhaps they feel that, on their record this season, they themselves may not be around much longer so why worry.

Defeat in Australia (twice), against New Zealand (twice), Wales and England has been their lot since the Grand Slam was won last season, relieved only by the traditional home win over Romania. With no chance of contesting this season's five nations' championship, the Scottish game might have been an occasion to experiment but the only changes made to the XV beaten 27—15 by England last Saturday involve the return of Cremaschi and Revallier.

Cremaschi, the Lourdes loose head prop capped four times against the International Board countries, and Revallier, the 33-year-old lock from Graulhet, were the leading offenders in Cardiff when France gave away a rash of penalties against Wales and Gwyn Evans meted out the appropriate punishment. Their return will give the French pack more physical presence without necessarily increasing the level of skill available.

Those who make way are Wolff, the only Beziers representative, and Buchet, the new cap against England. Cremaschi is a straight swap for Wolff but Carpentier moves from lock to No 8 to permit the return of Revallier. Joinel moves out to a flank, displacing the unlucky Buchet who may feel that if he was worth one cap, he might have been given the chance of a second.

The back division remains intact, a largely untested unit since its introduction against Wales. In the event of a comparatively loose game against the Scots, they may at last come into their own.

● The British Lions centre, David Richards, will miss Wales's two remaining internationals this season after suffering his second hamstring injury in three months.

Revallier: one of two recalled by France.

FRANCE: Full-back: M Sallefranque (Dax); Three quarters: S Blanco (Bayonne), P Perrier (Bayonne), C Belascain (Bayonne), L Pardo (Bayonne); Half-backs: J-P Lescarboura (Dax); G Martinez (Stade Toulousain); Forwards: D Dubroca (Agen), P Dintrans (Tarbes), M Cremaschi (Lourdes), J-P Rives (Stade Toulousain, Capt), D Revallier (Graulhet), L Rodriguez (Mont de Marsan); J-L Joinel (Brive), M Carpentier (Lourdes).

Scotland's selectors play waiting game

By Iain Mackenzie

For the second time this season Scotland have delayed their announcement of the team for an international match. The selectors decided to wait an extra three or four days in December before naming the side to play Australia at Murrayfield, and yesterday took the same course of action.

The XV to meet France at Murrayfield on March 6 was to have been announced yesterday but before lunch the Scottish Rugby Union secretary John Law said that it would not be known until Sunday. He declined to be quoted on details but did say: "The selectors felt it wise to wait until after Saturday's league championship matches" between Gala and Hawick and Watsonians and Heriot's before naming the side. "There will be a practice session at Murrayfield on Sunday morning and the team will be known around lunchtime."

There is some sense in waiting until the weekend, because half of the side which lost 21—12 to Ireland play for these four clubs and five others turn out for three Borders clubs—Jedforest, Selkirk and Kelso—who are all involved in important matches on Saturday.

It can also be argued that, having had numerous squad practices and played four internationals in the past six months, the selection committee convenor Ian MacGregor and his four colleagues (including the Scottish coach Jim Telfer) should be aware of strength and weaknesses by now.

Yesterday afternoon there was suspicion that the Scots, once again out of the five nations championship running, may be about to make changes to what since the early days of last year's New Zealand tour, has been a settled team. This year's tour of Australia is much in Mr Telfer's mind, and, although no wholesale alterations in the French style are expected, it will not be surprising if there are one or two experiments.

There have been criticisms of Robertson's defence and the Melrose man did miss a few tackles against the Irish. There could be at least one change in the second row as well; neither Tomes nor Cuthbertson had much success in Dublin.

Clash of the English and Irish universities

By David Hands

The leg injury sustained by Peter Thornley, the Exeter University flanker, when playing for the English Universities against their Welsh counterparts earlier this month, not only keeps him out of today's encounter with the Irish Universities but may prevent him from representing Exeter in the UAU final against Durham on March 10.

Nevertheless, Exeter have three representatives in the English Universities 15 at Birkenhead Park today, among them the centre, Hogg, who missed the 50—7 defeat of the Welsh at Birmingham. His partner, Carr of Bristol, has been ill recently but the selectors hope he will be available since they are keen to do well against a powerful Irish Universities selection which originally included four full Irish caps in McNeill, Ringland, Hooks, and Lenihan.

Ringland, however, received a hand injury a fortnight ago which caused him to miss his country's triple crown win over Scotland last Saturday. Since fixtures resumed at student level between Ireland and England two years ago, the honours have stayed with the Irish, who won 12—8 in 1980 and 12—0 in 1981.

Durham have four representatives in the home side, including Henderson, the Rosslyn Park prop, another absentee against Wales. The English back division should ... since Smith, who has played on the wing for Fylde, is moved to full-back instead of the unavailable Martin of Bath.

Smith impressed many observers when his University initially played him at full-back.

ENGLISH UNIVERSITIES: [illegible]

IRISH UNIVERSITIES: H McNeill (Dublin), K Hooks (Queen's University Belfast), C Hitchcock (University College Galway), J Duffy (University College Dublin), T Ringland (Queen's University Belfast), J Barry (University College Cork, captain), A O'Regan (University College Cork), S Beverland (University College Dublin), P Durham (University College Cork), F Donnelly (University College Cork), N Carr (Queen's University Belfast), D Lenihan (University College Cork), P Matthews (Queen's University Belfast), P Collins (University College Cork), A Blair (Dublin University).

Referee: F Howard (Liverpool).

HOCKEY

Tommy Hindley

Grounded: Niblett, the Oxford goalkeeper, has to take rearguard action against the light blues attack.

Cambridge make their corners count

By Sydney Friskin

Oxford U	1
Cambridge U	4

Cambridge University inscribed their names for the third time on the Sunlight Bowl by beating Oxford in the annual hockey match at Lord's yesterday. Cambridge won 1—0 in the first year of sponsorship in 1980 and last year the teams shared honours in a 2—2 draw.

At the interval, Cambridge led 2—1, their prosperity having been acquired through sustained attack in which Lewis and Atkinson played a prominent part. Their first goal was scored from a short corner in the fifteenth minute by Atkinson.

Off their first move of consequence, initiated by Mansfield in the 26th minute, Oxford forced a short corner from which they drew level. Mansfield stopped the hit from the line and passed to Blackett, who hit the ball hard into goal, past the onrushing defenders. But a minute before halftime, Cambridge went ahead again from a short corner, Atkinson stopping the bll himself and driving a superb shot into goal.

Oxford began the second half with a show of enterprise and earned a short corner which came to nothing. Then in the sixth minute of this period Cambridge, led by Scott, launched an assault which drew the goalkeeper out to clear the way at the expense of the long corner. The conversion of a long corner is a rare occurrence these days, but Lewis drove a right-hand shot into goal to put Cambridge 3—1 ahead.

In the last nine minutes the Cambridge attacks intensified and they were awarded four short corners in quick succession. The Oxford defence held out stubbornly, but a minute before the end another short corner led to a scramble and with Niblett out of position, Scott drove the ball into an empty goal.

OXFORD: R C H Niblett (Charterhouse and ... College), J D S Gordon (Kingston GS and Lincoln), Gorry (Kingston GS and New College, captain), J P North (Royal Belfast AI and St Edmund Hall), S M Quiddington (Nottingham HS and Wadham), sub J H C Mallinson (Wellington and Univ Coll), D J Mansfield (Bishop's Stortford and Worcester), N W Stevenson (Taunton and St Edmund Hall), S L B Gill (St Edward's, Oxford and New College), M N Robinson (Framlingham and Lincoln), H W Blackett (St Edward's, Oxford, and Christ Church), C G Lawless (St Edward's, Oxford and Christ Church).

CAMBRIDGE: R W Parr (Kingston GS and Ridley Hall), A C Locke (Burnham GS and St Catharine's), R M Mitchell (Pollard and St John's), N R H Dodds (Millfield and St John's), sub I J M Barber (Haberdashers' Aske's and St John's), T J Walker (Stewart's Melville and Pembroke), R G Miles (Kingston GS and Trinity), D G M Atkinson (Millfield and Downing, captain), R A Scott (Kingston GS and St Catharine's), M Lewis (Cardiff HS and St Catharine's), J M Case (King Edward VI, Chelmsford, and Fitzwilliam), N D Gregory (King Edward VII, King's Lynn and St Catharine's).

Umpires: M C Martin (Southern Counties) and R Wilson (Northern Counties).

The judgment of Stapleford

By John Hennessy

Perhaps Sally Stapleford was not quite the right person to consult on the perils of judging an ice skating championship. A woman who turns out to be so fiercely independent, self-employed in business and self-sufficient in the home, hardly fills the bill of a timid creature cowering in the face of a hostile reception for some presumed injustice.

The shy, retiring Olympic skater one remembers of the Sixties, who would not have said boo to a gull, let alone a goose, has given way to a strong-willed young woman with a political philosophy that seems only marginally more libertarian than that of Attila the Hun. A woman who thinks that the present Prime Minister is too soft with wets in the Tory party is not likely to worry about a dissenting crowd in an ice rink, or a disapproving distant audience by way of television.

Given that Iron Lady background, and the fact that Miss Stapleford is inhibited in her relationships with the press by precise International Skating Union rules and imprecise conventions among officials at home, an interview at her elegant south London house tended to take an unexpected course.

But even she is not entirely immune from the fear of public exposure as an incompetent. "It's always comforting", she explains, "to find at least one other judge on the same wavelength when you come up with something unexpected." There were two examples during the recent European championships at Lyons.

A lesser-known Russian, Alexander Fadeyev, had surprised her in the short programme and she had placed him first, whereas his position according to the whole of the panel of seven judges was only fourth. Still more surprisingly, she had placed a Swede, Lars Aakesson, first in one of the compulsory figures, whereas his overall position was as low as tenth. But on both occasions her view was endorsed by the Swiss, Maja Reinhart. Unfortunately, ISU rules forbid her from saying how she reached her minority conclusions.

Up among the hierarchy of skaters, she recalls incurring the displeasure of the British press and camp followers for giving Robin Cousins a crippling 2.9 for his second figure during the European championships at Zagreb in 1979, when her colleagues were marking him as high as 3.7. With no other judge to offer corroboration, she received it from a still more acceptable source. Cousins himself declared afterwards that Miss Stapleford had got it right. It was "a rotten figure".

The Olympic short programme at Lake Placid had also put her in an embarrassing position. Charles Tickner, the American champion, had clearly failed with the combination jump, landing the statutory double loop forwards. That required an immediate penalty of 0.5 of a mark, regardless of what he made of the six other elements. Miss Stapleford's 5.0 for the local hero evoked a noisy chorus of dissent, especially when viewed against other marks ranging as high as a ludicrous 5.8. She might at that moment have been regarded as a hanging judge.

During a free programme she uses a form of shorthand to identify the various elements of every skater's performance. By the time the four-and-a-half minutes are over, four for women, the line of hieroglyphics, resembling an extract from some abstruse mathematical PhD thesis, can stretch to a foot in length, followed by a pithy appraisal ranging from "boring" to "dynamic".


Sally Stapleford

Jimmy Nicholl may now join Stoke

Jimmy Nicholl, whose transfer to Sunderland fell through last week, could now be on his way to Stoke to join his Northern Ireland team mate, Sammy McIlroy.

Mr Alan Durban the Stoke manager has had talks with Mr Ron Atkinson, the Manchester United manager, about Nicholl's proposed transfer to Sunderland fell through after a loan period because Sunderland could not raise the fee, quoted at £250,000.

TENNIS

Players hogging more of television picture

Paris, Feb 23.— World tennis is in a critical state because of disputes among its governing bodies. Philippe Chatrier, president of the International Tennis Federation, said this today after returning from chairing a meeting of the men's International Professional Council in Palm Springs.

The Association of Tennis Professionals, who will withdraw from the council at the end of the year, have demanded 15 per cent of income from television rights, he said. He believed this was the start of an attempt by the players' organization to take control of the lucrative professional grand prix circuit. The council will meet on April 15 to reply.

Another problem was the continuing disagreements over the treatment of Bjorn Borg, who has decided not to enter 10 circuit tournaments this year, the minimum set by the council for top-class players who want to avoid having to play in qualifying.

Mr Chatrier said the council had reaffirmed their decision that the Swede would have to compete in the qualifying rounds of grand prix tournaments he did compete in.—Agence France-Presse.

Coaching for the novices

By Rex Bellamy

On May 7, when the Lawn Tennis Association launch their nationwide campaign to promote short tennis as a game for younger school children, an older scheme to attract youngsters to the real thing will already be in progress.

This is the annual grassroots coaching programme sponsored by the Prudential Assurance Company, administered by the Lawn Tennis Foundation, and designed primarily for novices.

The basis of the scheme is that anyone between the ages of eight and 16 can apply—to schools, libraries, or the Foundation—for six separate hours of group coaching from qualified professionals at more than a 1,000 centres scattered through England, Scotland and Wales. Applicants pay £3 each and the courses begin in April or May, varying from county to county.

On completing the course the youngsters receive a woven badge and the most talented players, as assessed by coaches and county organizers, are offered more advanced coaching, and other assistance towards improving their games and perhaps moving on to junior competition.

More than 350,000 players have taken advantage of the grass roots programme since it was inaugurated in 1970 to attract children to tennis, instruct them in the basic skills, and offer special encouragement to those with an exceptional aptitude for the game.

BADMINTON

Young England players can point the way

By Richard Eaton

England's bevy of good young players have another chance today and for the next few days to show whether their promise will turn England into a world power.

England should win the challenge match against Japan and Sweden, sponsored by Crest Hotels, at Huddersfield today and tomorrow, as well as the five internationals against Japan that follow. A more important question is how well they can win.

Steve Baddeley and Nick Yates, both 21, Andy Goode, 22, and Martin Dew, 23, have timed their improvement perfectly for inclusion in England's Thomas Cup team in two months' time. Whether the improvement is enough for England to cope with the Malaysians, who have spent a fortune on their Thomas Cup preparations is another matter.

At least the omens seem good. England have won the Crest Challenge for the last two years. Earlier in the month they returned from their most successful tour of the Far East. Japan were beaten, 6—3, and Baddeley, the new national champion, became the first Englishman to reach the final of the Japanese Open. As if contention for Thomas Cup places were not enough, there is more than £5,000 at stake in the next couple of days.

Ray Stevens, the England No 1, passed Tony Jordan's record of 100 caps in Japan; Stevens and Mike Tredgett, who have 99 caps, continue a friendly rivalry for the all-time record.

Tredgett also continues his splendid new partnership with Dew. This has caused realignment problems for the second doubles partnership, which is so important in the Thomas Cup. Tredgett and Stevens, former European champions, have been split; so are Dew, and Duncan Bridge, the national champions. Stevens is paired with Goode for the Crest Challenge and Bridge with Kevin Jolly against Japan.

GOLF

Royal Troon will draw Americans

By Lewine Mair

With Bill Rogers having won the Open at Royal St George's last year, the R & A are convinced that there will be no shortage of up and coming Americans anxious to compete in this year's Open at Royal Troon.

At a press conference in the clubhouse at Royal Troon yesterday, the R & A agreed that there had been adverse comment over the past few years concerning how much the Open week was apt to cost players from overseas. But they were able to cite a former American amateur champion whose total outlay for Royal St George's was $2,000 and who had volunteered that this sum was only $900 more than it would have cost him had he played in the concurrent professional event in the States. All of which is doubly interesting when one considers how, in this year's championship, the man finishing as low as 35th will pocket £1,000.

On the same tack, Keith Mackenzie of the R & A told how both Jack Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer had insisted that our Open represented good value for money, not least because of such facilities and the courtesy car service.

Palmer, who won at Troon in 1952, was the first to submit an entry for the 1982 championship, while Keith Mackenzie was equally moved by the news that the promising young Peter Jacobsen was prepared to go through the pre-qualifying grind.

Two new bunkers will greet competitors down Royal Troon's first hole, but the main theme of the work being done in preparation for July has revolved around the lessening of the blind element at the 9th and 10th holes and the narrowing of entrances to the greens.

Three former champions: Gene Sarazen, Fred Daly and Henry Cotton will take part in a 9-hole lap of honour on the Sunday morning.

SPORT

FISHING

Taking a great step forward for Atlantic Salmon

By Conrad Voss Bark Fishing Correspondent

A mild cheer ought to greet the news that as a result of a conference in Reykjavik a new organization is to be set up to conserve Atlantic salmon stocks. Mild, because those with some experiences of conventions and laws of the sea in times past — no doubt Iceland among them — have foundthe aims admirable, though the power to achieve them less so.

However, there we are. The countries at the conference were Canada, Denmark (for the Faroes), the EEC, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and The United States, who decided to adopt a convention on conservation which will have to be ratified by the governments of each country, and to set up a new body to be called the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization with headquarters in Edinburgh.

The organization, presumable NASCO, will be funded by the individual member states. The aims include the conservation, restoration and rational managemrnt of salmon stocks which migrate beyond areas of fisheries jurisdiction of coastal states throughout their migratory route. Three area commissions will be able to make regulations, and this seems to be where conflict will occur.

Hopes ought to be fairly high that at least something has been started. Mr Hadoke, of our own privately funded Atlantic Salmon Trust, says it is "a great step forward" but clearly he remains cautious until he sees and knows more. The Trust's appeal for £1m to "Save our Salmon" some time back did not do all that well, netting just over £350,000.

About 120 years ago Dr Cutliffe, an ebullient South Molton surgeon, and by all accounts a kindly man who fished the Mole and the Bray, wrote that anglers were wasting their time if they tried to tie artificial flies in exact imitation of water-bred flies and insects because it was impossible. Fly dressers ever since have tried to prove him wrong.

The latest specimen of the exact imitation school — it so happens from America — arrived on my desk the other day. It was a rather formidable-looking underwater insect known as a stonefly creeper, made in latex and coloured in natural colours that made it look so real that one felt slightly embarrassed that it was not.

Fifty years ago, Dr Howard Bell of Blagdon created a whole series of white, pink and brown maggots from silk and wool that imitated almost exactly, so far as one can tell, the larvae and pupae that he had spooned from the stomaches of Bristol Waterworks trout.

A contemporary is reported as saying that Dr Bell was so keen on exact imitation that he wuld have spooned out his grandmother if he thought she had anything interesting inside her. And in Blagdon Buzzer and Amber Nymph are widely used to this day.

One can marvel at such ingenuity without necessarily feeling the need to respond. That, most *likely*, is what Dr Cutcliffe meant. The closer one gets to imitating bait the more one recedes from fishing the fly; a paradox that is comprehensible on the understading that an angler's flies do not imitate anything at all except themselves. They exist to create the illusion of life, not to copy it.

The traditional Devonshire patterns and others which Cutcliffe used, are based firmly on that principle. Our grandfathers probably knew more about creating illusions than we give them credit for. Certainly if they wanted to fish bait they used the real thing and not an imitation.

Some of their flies, like the Coachman, may give the impression of a beetle of some kind; others, like the Partridge and Orange, could possibly look like a nymph, a spent spinner, or even in larger sizes some kind of shrimp, while with a short hackle in the surface film it suddenly appears to be a chironomid. A remarkable conjuring trick.

This is what fly fishing is all about: a rigid disipline in the business of magic rather than the making of models. This waxwork creature must remain among my unfinished and curious souvenirs.

CYCLING

Mountainous Tour of Italy planned

By John Wilcockson

One of its most mountainous routes for 20 years have been announced for the 1982 Tour of Italy, the Giro d'Italia, which should favour Frenchman Bernard Hinault in his quest to win it for a second time.

The 2,480 miles-long route, divided into 22 daily stages, is regarded as the toughest since 1964. Starting with a 10 miles team time-trial at Milan on May 13 and ending with a 26 miles individual time-trial into Turin on June 6, the course encompasses the length of the Italian peninsula, including three stages in Sicily.

The most difficult of 11 mountain stages is the penultimate stage between Cuneo and Pinerolo, 158 miles long and crossing five passes on the Italian-Fench border. These include the famous Alpine cols of Vars, l'Izoard and Mont Genèvre.

It was on this route in 1949 that the legendary Fausto Coppi raced home 12 minutes clear ofd his runner-up, Gino Bartali, to win his third Giro. On the same roads in 1964, Jacques Anquetil of France, consolidated his overall leadership on a stage won by Franco Bitossi, of Italy.

Hinault described the choice of such a long, mountainous stage as "diabolical", while the Tour de France organiser, Jacques Goddet, was saddened by the announcement of such an "enormous" stage.

There will be 180 riders, from 18 teams, and the race is expected to be a battle between Hinault and the leading Italians.



Hinault: mountain stage is "diabolical"

Yankee cream for Milk Race

The cream of United States riders are expected for this year's Milk Race from May 23 to June 5. The Americans have said they would not take part unless they could send their best men. This year they are among the first to accept the invitation.

The French are also planning to increase their entry. They returned last year after a nine-year boycott, after a 1972 incident when they alleged that Dutch tactics in the last mile cost one of their riders overall victory.

De Rooy alone in dash

Theo de Rooy of the Netherlands attacked five kilometres from the finish to win the Laigueglia Trophy open road race in Laigueglia yesterday.

Michel Laurent, of France, has won the Tour de la Méditerranée, the opening event of the *European season, for the second* time.

Final standings: 1, M Laurent (France), 14 4:08; 2, G Lemond (US), 14:54:32; 3, R Grab (Italy), 14:54:36; 4, G Knetemann (Netherlands), 14:54:46; 5, J van den Broucke (Belgium), 14.55:38; British: 7, G Jones, 14 55:54, 9, P Sherwen, 14:58:06.

SKIING CONDITIONS

	Depth (cm) L	U	Piste	Conditions Off Piste	Runs to resort	Weather (5 pm) —	°C
Andermatt	140	270	Good	Varied	Good	Cloudy	-6
New snow on icy base							
Arosa	140	190	Good	Powder	Good	Cold	-7
Powder on good base							
Courmayeur	146	272	Good	Powder	Good	Cloud	-5
Powder on hard icy base							
Grindelwald	25	130	Good	Good	Good	Snow	-3
Good skiing everywhere							
Isola 2000	140	185	Good	Powder	Good	Snow	-5
Excellent powder snow							
Klosters	130	230	Good	Varied	Good	Cloud	-5
Cold high winds							
La Plagne	165	310	Good	Powder	Good	Snow	-3
Timely new snow							
Mürren	120	210	Fair	Powder	Good	Snow	-6
Powder on hard base							
St Anton	115	465	Good	Powder	Fair	Cloud	2
New snow on hard base							
Tignes	160	225	Good	Poor	Good	Snow	-2
Snow falling on hard base							
Val d'Isère	145	225	Fair	Good	Cloud	—	-2
Limited powder possibilities							
Zermatt	70	160	Fair	Varied	Poor	Cloud	-3
Upper north facing slopes good							

In the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper slopes. The following reports have been received from other sources.

	Depth (cm) L	U	State of Piste	Weather —	°C
Berchtesgaden	40	110	Old	—	-10
Garmisch	46	110	Crust	—	-11
Hindelang	40	200	Pwdr	—	-7
Kleinwalsertal	110	330	Pwdr	—	-11
Mittenwald	48	100	Old	—	-10
Oberammergau	40	100	Old	—	-10
Oberstdorf	70	170	Pwdr	—	-10

SCOTTISH: Cairngorm: A few main runs complete but narrow, all others broken. Surface icy. Lower slopes? Very little snow. Vertical runs: 1400ft. Access roads: Clear. Snow level: 2200ft. Glenshee: Only one high-level main run complete, all other broken. Hard packed snow. Lower slopes: Very little hard packed snow. Vertical runs: 600ft. Access roads: Clear. Snow level: 2000ft. Glencoe: All main runs complete. New snow with icy patches. Lower slopes: All complete. New snow with icy patches. Vertical runs: 1400ft. Access roads: Clear. Snow level: 2200ft. Lecht: One high-level main run complete, all others broken. Spring snow with icy patches. Vertical runs: 600ft. Access roads: Clear. Snow level: 2000ft.

RACING

Wayward Lad an Ascot topper

By Michael Seely

Wayward Lad can continue Michael Dickinson's remarkable run of big race successes this season by winning the Lambert and Butler Final at Ascot this afternoon. Saint Fillans and Captain John both have useful form in top-class handicap company, and Fifty Dollars More is a novice of infinite promise. However, if Wayward Lad can recapture the ability that saw him annihilate a useful field in the Tote Silver Trophy on this course in November he will be desperately hard to overcome.

In his most recent race, at Cheltenham, Wayward Lad was a bitter disappointment when finishing last of three behind Lesley Ann in the Tote Double Steeplechase over three miles. However, this performance was too bad to be true and the beaten favourite was found to have a low blood count on his return to Yorkshire. Wayward Lad has worked well at Harewood recently and is thought to be back to his peak.

The headstrong Saint Fillans ran the race of his life when chasing home Bregawn in the Freshfields Holiday Handicap Steeplechase at Kempton Park. That performance satisfied his trainer, Maurice Camacho that Saint Fillans was good enough to tackle today's exalted company.

Captain John, the winner of three steeple chases earlier this season, acquitted himself nobly when running Night Nurse to two and a half lengths in the Mandarin Steeplechase at Newbury. Michael Mouskos's eight-year-old then blotted his copybook when running so badly behind Bregawn in the Peter Marsh Steeplechase at Haydock Park. However, this talented young horse's confidence will have been boosted by his fine run over hurdles at Newbury, where he finished runner-up to the improving Everett.

Fifty Dollars More looked to have the Sapling Novices Steeplechase at the last Ascot meeting at his mercy when falling at the final fence. Sailor's Return, the subsequent winner of that race, gave the form a boost when beating Golden Vow at Nottingham last Saturday. However, even with the inimitable John Francome in the saddle, Fred Winter's seven-year-old may lack the experience of his rivals.

The day's best bet must be Richdee in the Peter Ross Novices Steeplechase. All Richdee's previous hesitancy at his fences disappeared when confronted with Ascot's stiff obstacles in the Reynoldstown Steeplchase. Attacking the jumps with boldness and accuracy, Neville Crump's six-year-old proved far too strong for the Irish challenger, Drumbargan and is a firm selection.

At Huntingdon yesterday Fred Winter said that Midnight Court, the winner of the 1978 Cheltenham Gold Cup would tackle Night Nurse, the hot favourite for this year's race, in the Pennine Steeplechase at Doncaster on Saturday. Midnight Court showed something of his old fire when winning a hunter-chase at Newbury recently, but as Winter pointed out: "This is the only way to find out whether it is worthwhile going to Cheltenham. Midnight Court is also in a hunter chase at Kempton the same afternoon, but provided that both meetings are on I think we will go to Doncaster".

Winter also confirmed that Derring Rose would be ridden by John Francome in the Champion Hurdle. "The old fellow is really well. He is going to run at Kempton at the weekend. I only hope he does not decide to pull himself up!" Winter and Francome were in Irresistible form, the pair landing a treble by winning the Ward Hill Top Table Hurdle with Carved Opal and two of the three divisions of the Stevenage Novices Hurdle with One Armed Bandit and Young Dusky.

Because of frost it was only after two inspections that the go-ahead to race was given at about one o'clock. The first race, the Jim Holden Novices Steeplechase was put back to two o'clock. After Colin Tinkler and Chance Command had won a race in which five of the 10 starters had failed to complete the course, a deputation of the senior jockeys told the stewards that in their opinion the steeplechase course was in a dangerous condition.

The three stewards then took the most sensible course, they abandoned the remaining steeplechases and postponed a decision about the rest of the card until after the running of the first division of the novices hurdle.

By far the most exciting finish of the day was seen in the top table hurdle. Those arch rivals Francome and Peter Scudamore were seen at their strongest and most determined on Carved Opal and Palatine as they drove for the winning post locked together. Carved Opal snatched the verdict by a head.

The first division of the novices burdle was won by Funny Spring, who is trained by Gavin Pritchard-Gordon and was ridden by Steve Smith-Eccles. Funny Spring's jumping tipped the scales in his favour and after making most of the running had enough left in reserve



Fred Winter: three winners at Huntingdon

Ascot and Catterick threatened by frost

Today's meetings at Ascot and Catterick Bridge are both subject to early morning inspections. At Ascot the clerk of the course, Captain Nicholas Beaumont, said, "Frost is again forecast, but provided there is a rise in temperature this morning racing should go ahead".

Prospects are not so good for Catterick, where there is heavy frost in the ground. There are no problems for today's other scheduled meeting, Folkestone.

Yesterday's Sedgefield meeting was cancelled because of frost — the seventy-eighth to be lost this season.

□ The Triumph hurdle hope Goldspun will not run before Cheltenham next month, his trainer, David Nicholson, said yesterday.

The four-year-old, second favourite for the race, misses an Ascot engagement today and Nicholson said: "The horse was cast on Saturday night,

Ascot, featuring Lambert and Butler Chase final

Tote Double: 2.40 and 3.45. Treble: 2.5, 3.15 and 4.15

[Television (BBC2): 1.30, 2.5, 2.40 and 3.15 races]

1.30 DURHAM RANGER HURDLE (Div. I: novices: £1,690: 2m) (10 runners)

101	230-114	HALF FREE (CD) (Sheikh Ali Abu Khamsin) F Winter 5-12-1	J Francome
104		CANIO (C Kilroy) J Old 5-11-5	H Davies
105	000	[illegible]	[illegible]
106		[illegible]	[illegible]
108		[illegible]	[illegible]
110		[illegible]	[illegible]
112		[illegible]	[illegible]
113		[illegible]	[illegible]
114		[illegible]	[illegible]
116	0	RIVERS LAD (Mrs E Harty) G Balding 4-10-4	B Reilly

5-4 Half Free, 7-4 Dr Steve, 7 Supper's Ready, 10 Cavalryman, 14 Sinette, 16 Rivers Lad, 20 others.

2.5 PETER ROSS CHASE (novices: £5,030: 3m) (10)

201	30p010	FOXBURY (D) (S Richards) Mrs C Richards 8-11-13	Mrs L Sheedy
202	411232	RANDOM LEG (D) (Maj D Wigan) J Gifford 7-11-13	R Rowe
203	0-12111	RICHDEE (CD) (Miss D Dalzell) N Crump 6-11-13	C Hawkins
205	440-202	APPLALTO (Miss N Carroll) R Armytage 8-11-10	A Webber
209	00003f	CELTIC RAMBLER (N.P.D. Ltd) Mrs M Rimell 7-11-3	S Morshead
211	42f004	DRUMCONDRA (J Tainton) D Nicholson 7-11-3	P Scudamore
212	00-0404	FOOLSOME (L Bowman) L Bowman 10-11-3	G Kinane
213	4-23412	JARVIS BAY (Mrs P Brown) F Winter 6-11-3	J Francome
214	0d1-42	ROYAL PINE (W Whitbread) S Mellor 7-11-3	H Davies
215	122303	STAR MEMBER (R Hawker) R Hawker 7-11-3	E Waite

Evens Richdee, 11-2 Applalto, 6 Royal Pine, 8 Random Leg, 10 Star Member, 12 Celtic Rambler, 16 Jarvis Bay, 20 others.

2.40 LAMBERT & BUTLER PREMIER CHASE FINAL (£15,281: 2½m) (7)

301	1012p2	CAPTAIN JOHN (D) (M Mouskos) D Thom 8-11-7	P Scudamore
302	202p-43	DEEP SOUND (W Greenwood) Mrs M Rimell 8-11-7	S Morshead
303	10-u3u1	EARTHSTOPPER (G Sloan) J Gifford 8-11-7	R Rowe
304	2-11143	FIFTY DOLLARS MORE (D) (Sheikh Ali Abu Khamsin) F Winter 7-11-7	J Francome
305	10-3100	PRETTY HOPEFUL (CD) (Mrs M Ash) S Mellor 7-11-7	H Davies
306	1-11ff2	SAINT FILLANS (D) (R Wilson) M Camacho 8-11-7	J O'Neill
307	01-1113	WAYWARD LAD (CD) (D Ingham) M Dickinson 7-11-7	R Earnshaw

7-4 Wayward Lad, 11-4 Saint Fillans, 7-2 Captain John, 9-2 Fifty Dollars More, 6 Earthstopper, 14 others.

FORM: Captain John (11st 3lb) ran well, 2nd, btn 2l, to Everett (rec 10lb), 19 ran. Newbury Feb 12, 2½m, 120y hurdle, good to soft. Deep Sound, see Fifty Dollars More. Since 4½l 3rd to Book of Kells (gave 5lb), 11 ran. Doncaster Jan 30, 2½m, good. Earthstopper, see Wayward Lad. Won 2½l, 1½l from Abo (rec 7lb) and Sea Captain (lvl), 5 ran. Lingfield Jan 7, 3m, heavy.



Harewood harrier: Wayward Lad soars over a fence at Cheltenham last month. He finished last of three behind the other horse in the picture, Lesley Ann, but was found to have a low blood count.

Fifty Dollars More, fell at Ascot last time out. Earlier (11st 7lb) beat Deep Sound, 4th (lvl) by 3½l, 12 ran. Newbury, Oct 23, 2½m, good. Pretty Hopeful (11st 5lb) never closer than 5th when btn over 17l by Sweeping Along (gave 9lb), 8 ran. Kempton Dec 4, 2m 4f, good to soft. Saint Fillans, see Wayward Lad, btn 5l by Bregawn (lvl), with Night Nurse (gave 20lb) 2l away, 3rd. Kempton, Feb 6, 3m, good to soft. Wayward Lad (11st 10lb) won 5l, 4l, from Silversmith (rec 17lb) and Kilkilowen (rec 14lb), Ascot, 2½m Nov 21, with Saint Fillans (rec 10lb) behind when fell 11th and Earthstopper (rec 12lb) behind when u r last. Last of three, btn 22½l to Lesney Ann (lvl). Cheltenham, Jan 30, 3m 1f, good to soft.
Wayward Lad should make his class tell.

3.15 HAIRY MARY HURDLE (Handicap: £3,140: 3m) (16)

[illegible]

3.45 JOCK SCOTT CHASE (Handicap: £5,667: 2½m) (6)

[illegible]

4.15 DURHAM RANGER HURDLE (Div. II: novices: £1,643: 2m) (9)

[illegible]

Folkestone

1.30 NORTH FORELAND HURDLE (Div. I: novices: £755: 2m 5f) (16 runners)

[illegible]

2.0 GOODWINS CHASE (Handicap: £1,236: 2½m) (10)

[illegible]

2.30 VALENTINE GORTON HURDLE (4-y-o: £2,616: 2m 1f0yd) (5)

[illegible]

3.0 CAP GRIS NEZ (Handicap: £1,324: 3¼m) (10)

[illegible]

3.30 VARNE HURDLE (Selling handicap: £648: 2m 110yd) (17)

1	[illegible]	LONG JOHN Burgoyne 7-11-10	McNally
2	[illegible]	TORNADO PRINCE R Atkins 10-11-3	R Atkins
3	[illegible]	OPENING NIGHT C White 8-11-2	—

4.0 MANSTON CHASE (Novice handicap: £1,172: 2¾m) (9)

[illegible]

4.30 NORTH FORELAND HURDLE (Div II: £717: 2m 5f) (8)

1	1-100	SIRENIA Gaselee 5-11-9	Linley
4	0000	BUSTABY Mills 6-11-4	Goldstein
6	0	CHESTNUT PRINCE Musson 7-11-4	Coogan
7	-400	COBBLERS CASTLE Gifford 6-11-4	Kinane
8	032/0	PAPAL KNIGHT Gifford 6-11-4	Champion
10	0200	REVOLVER Woodman 5-11-4	W Smith
13	0000	ENTERPRISE EXPRESS Besson 4-10-3	J Akehurst 7
14	0000	KASHILL H O'Neill 4-10-3	M Hammond

13-8 Sirenia, 3 Cobblers Castle, 5 Papal Knight, 13 Revolver, 8 Chestnut Prince, 10 Kashill, 14 others.

Folkestone selections

1.30 Tangle Briar, 2.0 Falkland Palace, 2.30 Dr. Steve, 3.0 Flying Romany, 3.30 Summercove, 4.0 Kalkashandi, 4.30 Papal Knight.

Catterick selections

1.15 Azaam, 1.45 Sea Merchant is specially recommended, 2.15 Rosie's Secret, 2.45 Clever General, 3.15 Gray Heal, 3.45 Abersing, 4.15 Aversun, 4.45 Ardar.

Ascot selections

By Michael Seely

1.30 Dr Steve. 2.05 Richdee. 2.40 Wayward Lad. 3.15 *Hill Of Slane. 3.45 Tiepolino. 4.15 Brass Change.*

Catterick Bridge

1.15 WENSLEY HURDLE (Div I: 4-y-o novices: £569: 2m) (8 runners)

[illegible]

1.45 GRETA BRIDGE CHASE (Handicap: £1,217: 2m) (7)

[illegible]

2.15 RIPON HURDLE (selling handicap: £842: 2m) (25)

[illegible]

2.45 BRETTANBY CHASE (Handicap: £2,653: 3m 300yd) (12)

2	2-443	FATHER DELANEY Denys Smith 10-11-13	C Grant
4	1203	CLEVER GENERAL (CD) Crump 11-11-2	M Stephens 4
5	1/p-0	THE FENCER (CD) W A Stephenson 10-11-0	Lamb
7	0430	TROJAN WALK (CD) Miss C Mason 11-10-5	J Goulding
8	111p	CARL'S WAGER R Fisher 7-10-1	D Goulding
9	p41u	HALLO DANDY (C) G Richards 8-10-1	Pimlott
10	33p/p	KING CON Renison 13-10-0	D Atkins

3.15 WENSLEY HURDLE (Div II: 4-y-o novices: £607: 2m) (11)

[illegible]

3.45 LEYBURN CHASE (Div I: novices: £1,164: 2m) (11)

[illegible]

4.15 LEYBURN NOVICE CHASE (div II: novices: £1,164: 2m) (11)

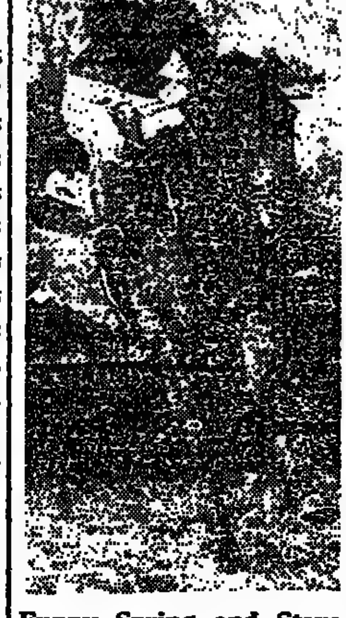
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4.45 WENSLEY HURDLE (Div. III: 4-6-o novices: £563: 2m) (9)

1	3d1	IMMORAL (D) Camacho 11-6	Bradley
2		ARDAR M H Easterby 10-10	A Brown
3	0	GLEN AIR T Taylor 10-10	Mr M Rowley 7
4	0	DELPIE G Richards 10-10	Doughty
6	00f0	NIMBO Waggott 10-10	Mr N Waggott 7
7	00	PATCHWORK SAINT F Watson 10-10	D Dutton 4
8	40	REIDOR W Haigh 10-10	P Charlton
9	000	RUMASA T Barnes 10-10	D Johnston 7
10		SCHWARZENBERG G Richards 10-10	R Barry

8-11 Ardar, 3 Immoral, 5 Schwarzenberg, 8 Reidor, 2 Kelpie, 25 others.

Huntingdon results yesterday



Funny Spring and Steve Smith Eccles take the last flight on their way to victory.

Going: Good to soft

1.30 (2.1) JIM HOLDEN CHASE (Div I: £1,654: 3m 100yd)

CHANCE COMMAND, ch g by London Gazette — Chancer (Lord Ronaldshay) 7-11-1 C Tinkler (8-1) 1
Crafty Look .... J Barlow (8-1) 2
Cashandell .... R Hyett (12-1) 3

TOTE: Win, £1.05, places, 38p 40p, 20p. Dual forecast: £10.38. CSF: £7.26. P. Calver at Ripon. 1½l, 15l, Jacks Pride 13-8 fav. Phil McHugh (11-2) 4th. 10 ran. NR: Was I Right, Another Breeze, Ivory Thrust, Last Rainbow, Sir Bountiful, Upham Pleasure.

2.0 (2.36) STEVENAGE HURDLE (Div I: novices: £690: 2m 200yd)

FUNNY SPRING, b g by Rheingold — Lotus (Mrs D Zurcher) 7-11-6 S Smith Eccles (100-30) 1
Doctor Faustus .... C Brown (3-4 fav) 2
New Continent .... A Coogan (4-1) 3

TOTE: Win, 47p, places, 22p, 17p, 11p. Dual forecast: 61p. CSF: £1.21. G Pritchard-Gordon at Newmarket. ¾l, 3l. Mac's Delight (5-1) 4th. 12 ran. NR: Fugacious.

3.0 (3.30) STEVENAGE HURDLE (Div II) (Novices: £690: 2m 200yd)

ONE ARMED BANDIT, ch g. by Deep Run — Viewless (N De Savary) 6-11-6 J Francome (2-1) 1
Steeple Bell .... S Smith Eccles (13-8 fav) 2
Left Bank .... P Scudamore (5-1) 3

TOTE: Win 32p; places, 11p, 20p, 17p. Dual F: 28p. CSF: 64p. F Winter at Lambourn. 2½l, 2½l. Harvester Glory (20-1) 4th. 17 ran.

4.0 (4.4) WARD HILL HURDLE. (Handicap: £1,583: 2½m)

MERCILESS KING, br g. No Worry — My Mary (Brig C. Harvey) 5-10-13 P. Scudamore (7-1) 1
Fine Foundations .... M. O'Halloran (8-1) 2
Trampler .... B. R. Davies (12-1) 3

TOTE: Win £1.01 places: 34p, 10p, 35p, 44p. Dual forecast: £1.69. CSF: £5.71. Tricast: £43.38. D. Nicholson at Stow-on-the-Wold. 1l, 8l. Tuthill Bond, Sanhedrin 6-1 jt-favs. Migrateur (25-1) 4th. 17 ran. NR: Recycled, Supreme Vista, Old Castle Line.

4.30 (4.32) WARD HILL TOP TABLE HURDLE. (4-y-o: £2,649. 2m 200yd)

CARVED OPAL gr c. by Arch Sculptor — Pale Maid (Mrs. G. Abecassis) 10-7 J. Francome (9-2) 1
Palatinate .... P. Scudamore (14-1) 2
Latest Love .... J. Burke (15.2) 3

TOTE: Win 57p, places 15p, 28p, 20p. Dual f £2.60. CSF: £7.07 F. Winter at Lambourn. Hd, 10l. Weevers Point 13-8 fav. The Disco Dago (7-1) 4th. 10ran. NR: Kings Parade.

5.0 (5.2) STEVENAGE HURDLE (Div III: £690: 2m 200yd)

YOUNG DUSKY br g by Dusky Boy — The White Lark (T Ludlow) 6-11-6 J Francome (4-5 fav) 1
Heleslan .... Steve Knight (8-1) 2
Frozen Prince .. Mr N Twiston Davies (33-1) 3

TOTE: Win, 22p, places, 10p, 21p, 76p. Dual F: 85p. CSF: 85p. F. Winter at Lambourn. 3l, 3l. Noon Gun (2-1) 4th. 8 ran.

□ William Hill have cut Carved Opal's Triumph Hurdle odds to 33-1, from 50-1, following the horse's head victory at Huntingdon yesterday.

□ Master Asphalt will be the Irish trainer, Frank Oakes's, first runner in England at Kempton Park on Friday, Paul Barton rides.

Cowley dominate

Sevenoaks School, were totally demolished 67-3 by Cowley yesterday. Lewis, Aspinall and Roy scored first-half tries, Denning kicking two conversions. Denning and Ford had earlier kicked penalties but, Stretch (four), McIntyre (two), Lewis, Pickavante and Denning scored further tries, Denning contributing six more conversions.

Point-to-point fixtures next month

March 6 Albrighton at Chaddesley Corbett; Beaufort, Didmarton; Bicester & Warden Hill, Mollington; Mid-Surrey Farmers' Draghounds, Charing; Percy, Alnwick; South Dorset, Badbury Rings; Tiverton, Hellerton Court; Waveney Harriers, Higham.

13 Avon Vale, Hedge, Bolventor Harriers, Lemalla; Brecon, Llanfrynach; Brocklesby, Brocklesby Park; Cumberland Farmers, Dalston; Derwent, Wykeham; Essex Union, Marks Tey; Oakley, Newton Bromswold, Silverton, Thorverton; Southdown & Eridge, Parham.

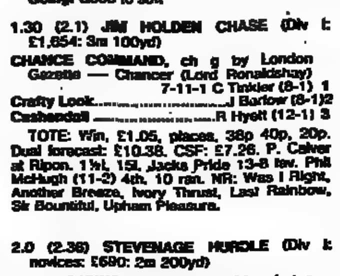
20 Cambridgeshire, Horseheath; Cottesmore, Garthorpe; Dart Vale & Haldon & South Pool Harriers, Totnes, Garth & South Berks, Tweseldon; Gelligaer Farmers, Nelson; Golden Valley, Bredwardine; Haydon, Corbridge; Holderness, Dalton Park; New Forest Joint Hunts, Larkhill; Pegasus Club (Bar), Kimble; Quantock Staghounds, Williton; Sir W. W. Wynn's, Eaton Hall; Tickham, Detling; Warwickshire, Mollington.

27 Crawley & Horsham, Parham; Cumre, Howick; Eglinton, Bogside; Fitzwilliam (Milton), Cottenham; Harkaway Club, Chaddesley Corbett; Holcombe Harriers, Whittington; Hurworth, Hutton Rudby; Lamerton, Kilworthy; North Norfolk Harriers, Higham; Pembrokeshire, Scoveston Fort; South Herefordshire, Belmont; W W.H. Siddington; Weston & Banwell Harriers, Hedge; Whaddon Chase, Little Horwood; Wilton, Badbury Rings.

Wed. 31 West Percy & Milvain, Alnwick.

STATE OF GOING (official). Ascot: good, precautionary inspection 7.30am. Catterick Bridge: good to firm, precautionary inspection 7.30am. Folkestone: Chase, good to soft. Hurdle: soft. No inspection planned. Tomorrow: Warwick: heavy. Wincanton: good to soft.





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All employees of this company know about this advertisement, so you may reply without fear to:—
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£8,000 PA/SECRETARY
£6,000 SECRETARY

Director of international finance and export company in Mayfair requires PA and Secretary, well educated and with excellent secretarial skills. Apply in writing with c.v. to:

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When someone needs electrics, plumbing, heating and ventilating installed in a building they'll probably call Haden Ltd.

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A salary of £7,000 is made even more attractive with several extra benefits and pleasant working conditions. For full details please contact Joan Parr on 01-387 1288, Haden Limited, 7-12, Tavistock Square, London, WC1.

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An International Consortium Bank situated in the City requires an experienced shorthand secretary with fluent French including French shorthand, to work closely with one of their key executives who is spearheading their marketing drive into Europe. The position is very much working on a "one to one" basis with considerable client contact and PA duties. Age mid-20s though consideration will be given to older applicants. Banking experience not necessary. Excellent working conditions and fringe benefits.

01-499 4175

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who will have boundless energy; bright plumage; precision in all things and will eventually run our operation. We need fast and immaculate shorthand/typing; good humour and the ability to spell! You will receive love and adoration, a high salary, good hols and our undying gratitude. Open to male and female applicants. Offices Mayfair. Only the best need apply.

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No Agencies

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FRENCH: North West London—experienced secretary (graduate preferred) to assist in running small sales office, organise trade shows, write press releases, etc., £6,000-£6,500.

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Young high-powered Legal Secretary required for involved position assisting ambitious Junior Partner.

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Progressive position assisting Conveyancing Partner. Varied admin. (own searches). 3 yrs. legal Secretarial background. Age 22-35.

DIVORCE CASES c. £6,000

Young secretary (18 months Legal experience) required for position involving matrimonial law. 2 salary reviews a year.

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Advertising and Design Senior Secretary £6,000

An exciting opportunity to join a packaging and design/Advertising Co. The successful candidate will be dealing a lot with people from the Continent, both on the telephone and by correspondence. Good typing and some shorthand useful. Modern offices in NW1 with young, though mature people. P.A. duties including travel, diary and meetings arrangements, with lots of involvement. Age 25+.

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Recruitment Consultants
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01-499 0092 : 01-493 5907

Albemarle Appointments
Recruitment Consultants

BI-LINGUAL FRENCH c. £6,250

The Manager responsible for coordinating international projects for a large company based in central London, needs a shorthand Secretary aged between 23 and 30 with secretarial skills 100/60. The applicant must have fluent French, ideally 2 'A' levels and at least 3 years' experience in a professional or commercial office. Please phone SIMONE SYKES.

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Shorthand in French and perfect spoken English combined in an experienced Secretary aged 23-33 are the formal qualifications required by this Director of a Merchant Bank in the centre of Paris. But there is nothing formal about this young, and rapidly expanding company who are offering up to FF 90,000 and a very useful bonus.

SENIOR SECRETARIES
Recruitment Consultants
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01-499 0092 : 01-493 5907

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To work for the Director of Overseas Operations of Large International Company

Age 25+ £7,000 p.a. + LVs

Interesting and rewarding position demanding excellent shorthand and typing skills. A pleasing manner with an ability to deal with and be helpful to people from overseas is vital. Previous experience at executive level essential as is a calm approach to a heavy workload. Not a job that can be switched off at 5 o'clock. Location: Mayfair. Applications in writing to:

Box 1284 G, The Times

£8,000 + MORTGAGE
BI-LINGUAL SPANISH PA/SEC

The young MD of an expanding Latin-American Bank needs an experienced PA with fluent Spanish including Spanish and English shorthand. You will handle a wide variety of secretarial and admin duties and should be prepared to run the office during his trips abroad. Good secretarial skills and senior level experience necessary. Age 24-30. Ring 588 3535.

Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants

PROPERTY £7,000 +

Young friendly partner of leading West End estate agents needs an outgoing secretary to replace the last one who is deserting him after 4 happy years to travel. Your outgoing personality will be as important as good secretarial skills and organisational ability if you are to fit into this sociable company.

[illegible]

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Staff Consultants

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Our thriving temporary division is humming with activity and if you have good shorthand or audio skills there is plenty of highly rewarding and interesting work for you. There are vacancies at most levels including, of course, the very top.

Please telephone Claire Williams for an immediate interview

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Recruitment Consultants
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01-606 1611

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An opportunity for a bright person aged 25+ to get involved with staff selection, the ability to communicate at all levels with staff and partners in a professional organisation. The appointed person will be someone discreet, personable, not a clock watcher and with the ability to work under pressure and experienced in taking the weight off the boss. Good accurate audio essential. Some shorthand would be preferable. Remuneration will be £7,000+, numerous perks including LVs, non contrib. permanent health, STL, 2 salary reviews p.a., Christmas bonus etc.

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583 5567 (24hrs ans)

P.R. RECEPTIONIST £5,500

Are you looking for a job with real variety and interest among charming people? A well known P.R. consultancy, conveniently situated in Central London, needs someone well groomed and socially confident to greet their important clients, work a busy automatic switchboard and be responsible for a beautiful reception area.

Bernadette of Bond St.
Recruitment Consultants
No. 55, (next door to Fenwicks)
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now Tripoli. Applicants To work for oil executive should be a minimum of 26 years of age, single, posess a British passport and have a sound office background. Speeds of 60/90. Modern self contained flats. 1 year only renewable contract. Salary in excess of £700 per month after tax. For interview

Veronica Lapa 937 6525
Personnel Consultants

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£7,500 + CAR

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(Rec.Con.) (24hrs)
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to MD of Personnel & Management Consultancy
c.£6750 + bonus

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This busy job includes very varied secretarial work • organising client lunches & new business presentations • assisting with assignments • general admin. Own office with lots of responsibility. If you are 25-40 with intelligence, good experience, secretarial training & fast accurate typing, phone Ruth Shelley — 388 2051.

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£6,500 + Commission

This is a chance for a sales orientated secretary to make a lot of money by being right hand assistant to Sales Director of SW1 Co (25-35)

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The General Secretary of an employers federation requires an experienced PA/Secretary with good speeds and personality. Interesting and varied work including some travel in connection with organising half yearly conference and meetings. Knowledge of German useful but not necessary. West End area. Age 25-35, salary £6,500 + LVs. Phone Joan Wells on 01-439 1753.

(No agencies)

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Send written applications and photo to Miss Anne Forder; AP-Dow Jones 83-86 Farringdon Street, London E.C.4

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Personnel Appointments need an additional senior consultant used to working in specialist divisions. The work is demanding, the ability to work under pressure essential. The remuneration package is substantial and earnings should exceed £10,000 in the 1st year. This position is open to interviewers with previous employment agency experience who are now looking for greener pastures. Please ring in confidence on my private number 353 2942.

£7,000

First class Secretary/PA needed for Manager of large branch of established insurance company in West End. Must be presentable, adaptable with good telephone manner and pleasant personality.

Call Jane on
580 9183/1617
Penthouse Personnel Consultants

TELEVISION—£7,000

M.D. requires well-groomed personable P.A. with experience at senior level and a calm, happy disposition. Excellent secretarial skills (100/60) are essential and the ability to organise his meetings, lunches, papers and travel arrangements, for this interesting but not highly pressurised position.

637 7097 Cavendish Personnel Rec. Cons.

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Efficient Secretary required for Director of busy International P.R. Consultancy. Speed, top skills and organising ability essential. Salary £6,500.

Phone: 581 1721
for appointment

PA £10,000 neg.

Unusual opportunity to travel, use initiative and top PA sec. abilities.

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Enjoy variety, meet people, use sec. skills.

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Young Swedish Director of prestigious merchant bank in City seeks top sh. Sec. P.A. to assist him. Beautiful offices. Sub. mortgage + free lunch. Ring Dion Ward on 242 1811. Rand Services Emp. Agy.

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You must have senior secretarial experience and with good shorthand and typing. A knowledge of telex is also desirable. Salary in the region of £6,500—£7,000.

For further details telephone Tom Chance on 486 0155.

No Agencies please.

CITY BANK £8,000

P.A./Secretary required with bank experience more of an Assistant than a Secretary to a Manager who covers admin, personnel and all internal financial matters. A top flight person with shorthand aged c. 25-35.

City 377 8600
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We require a shorthand Secretary to work in our pleasant new office in Richmond, Surrey. If you are aged 20-25 years, have good speeds and a well organised professional approach we will pay you £5,000 per annum with LV's and review your salary annually. Holidays are 4 weeks per annum and we will honour holidays booked this year.

For further information and an application form please telephone Sally on 01-940 9565 (Mon-Fri).

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01-930 2233
Closing date 8th March.

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We seek a Receptionist Telephonist with a lively, outgoing personality to look after a very plush reception area. Lots of contact with V.I.P. clients. You should have previous switchboard experience and 40 w.p.m. typing ability. Informal friendly atmosphere. Benefits include a bonus and hair grooming allowance.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS
18 Grosvenor Street London W1
Telephone 01-499 2921

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WC2 — to £7,000

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P.S. — phone 01 734 8694 — on the QT of course — or contact your nearest Reed Employment

MARBELLA/LONDON (MAYFAIR)

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هكذا من الأصل

Residential Property by Baron Phillips

A share of sun, sand and scuba

Bumping your way down a typical St Lucian road at night is a poor introduction to the lush Caribbean island. But the hour or so it took us to get from the international airport to Anse Chastanet — a distance of less than 30 miles — in the south west of the island was worth it the next morning when the sun drew back the curtain of darkness to reveal dense banana plantations, swaying coconut trees and masses of dramatically coloured bougainvillea.

Overlooking what must be one of the island's prettiest bays, with spectacular views of St Lucia's famous Pitons, the Anse Chastanet Hotel close to the rambling town of Soufriere is expanding into the timesharing business.

In the next few weeks work is starting on the first phase in a new development right on the beach. The scheme is being designed in the shape of a lazy S so that each unit has a view of the sea. It is expected to be complete in about six months.

Development is being masterminded by the hotel owners — two expatriate Canadians Mr Nick Troobitscoff and Mr Wayne Brown. It is being regarded as an integral part of the hotel in management terms and will come under the control of the Anse Chastanet Beach team headed by Mr Peter Pietruszka and his wife Rachel.

The setting must be close to one's concept of a typical tropical island. It will be possible to take a short stroll and fall into the warm clear Caribbean sea for a quick dip before breakfast.

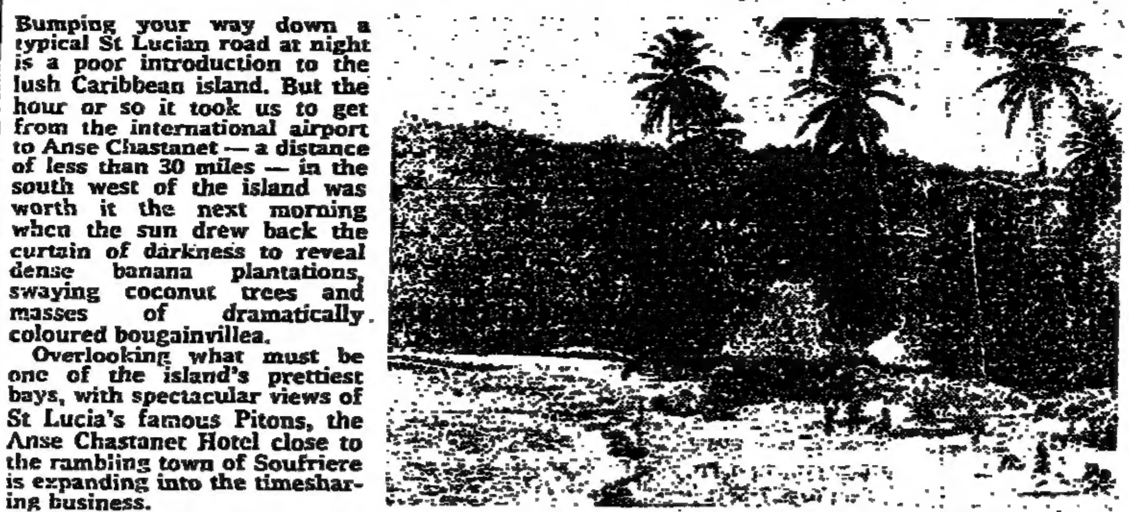
Unlike most timesharing schemes Anse Chastanet will operate a system of floating weeks for particular times of the year with three different price structures. The most expensive is for the two high season periods in winter and summer with cheaper "shoulder" segments which roughly cover our spring and autumn seasons.

At the top of the range a week in a two bedroom unit will cost US$9,100 while the cheapest is about $4,800. The property is held on a 35-year lease and although your weeks are not fixed each year it is up to you to decide which time is the most convenient and then book no more than a year in advance.

For the casual British buyer St Lucia and the Caribbean in general has one distinct disadvantage — the length of time it takes to get there. Our British Airways flight took about 12 hours stopping off at Barbados and Antigua. The other scheduled airline which flies to the island is British West Indian Airlines via Barbados.

Certainly the island is more than ample compensation for the time spent incarcerated in a BA jumbo jet. But British buyers who can afford to buy two weeks in the winter must weigh up the disadvantage of two 12 hour flights against the sheer delight of relaxing on a Caribbean beach.

The scheme, which is being marketed in this country by Asset International, is really aimed at people who want to relax for a week or two. Anse Chastanet and neighbouring Soufriere is not geared to those looking for a wild time. In fact most people get up early and are in bed by 10.30 pm. Night life can be found in the capital Castries but that is an hour's drive away on some of the worst roads I have experienced.



Anse Chastanet beach — alongside which the new time share development will be built.

Anse Chastanet is for people who want to enjoy a beach warmed by a winter sun, which pushes the temperatures into the low 80s even in January, and sip and exotic cocktail such as a Carib Kiss or a Camilla's Voodoo. But for people who like the water then Anse Chastanet offers some of the best snorkelling and scuba diving in the entire Caribbean.

For the really keen, resort courses in scuba diving are offered by the hotel's resident instructor, a laconic German-born American, Mr Harald Kopp. His technique is so gentle that even the most faint hearted, myself included, suddenly discover a whole new world a few feet under the ocean's surface.

The hotel is expanding its diving facilities, introducing sailboards and rebuilding its tennis court which will be sited behind the new time sharing units.

Although the units will be self catering the beach restaurant will be open in the evenings as well as lunch time, or residents will be able to use the main hotel dining room. And a few minutes drive away is one of the island's best restaurants, the Humming Bird run by an Englishman called Paul and his girlfriend Joyce.

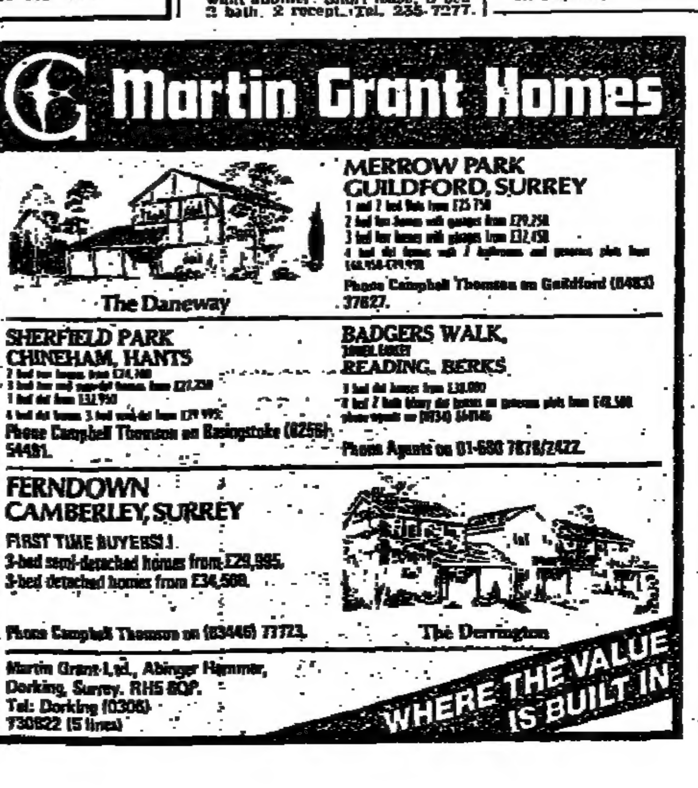
Apart from the two bedroom units the scheme will offer one bedroom cottages available for $7,300 a week in the winter high season to $3,900 a week in the summer season and $3,100 in the shoulder weeks. At the same time Anse Chastanet is providing one room gazebos for $4,600 a week in the high season or $2,400 a week in the low.

As with all time sharing developments there is an annual service charge. For this year it is expected to be $200 a week, for a two bedroom unit, $175 a week for the one bedroom cottages and $150 for a gazebo.

Property on the island is far from cheap because many of the basic materials have to be imported. Two bedroom, two bathrooms properties around Soufriere are selling for about $75,000 but if you want particular designs incorporated then the final price is likely to be much higher.

There is little doubt the island makes an ideal retirement home but one must be careful about choosing the right location. Up in the hills it can get quite cold at night and you will need some alternative forms of heating other than the sun. But near the shore it is warm all year round.

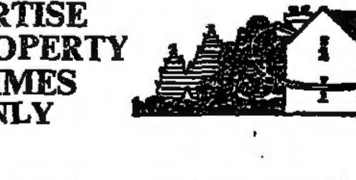
The Anse Chastanet scheme is part of the Resorts Condiminium International register of time sharing — which operates an international exchange scheme. This means that anybody with, say, a time share in a Spanish villa, will be able to exchange it for two weeks in St Lucia.







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"... TURN UNTO THE LORD your God: for He is gracious and merciful."—Joel 2: 13.

BIRTHS

BRIDGE.—On February 22nd, to Arabella and Charlie—a daughter.
COLQUHOUN.—On 21st February, to Sue and Joan—a daughter (Anriol Emma), a sister for Mafa and James.
DALTON.—On February 23rd to Elisabeth and Richard—a son, brother to Mary, William and Laura.
DAVIES.—On 23rd February, at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, to Veronica (nee Agnew) and Jonathan—a daughter (Mary Theresa Ruth).
DORAN.—On 19th February, 1982, at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, to Rebecca (nee Huxley) wife of Simon Doran—a daughter (Henira Cicely).
LOOKE.—On February 21st, in Miri (Sarawak) to Fiona (nee Bowlby) and Garry—a daughter.
MARCH.—On February 21st, to Liz and James—a daughter (Olivia).
McFARLANE-WATTS.—On 23rd February at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, to Dawn (nee Edwards) and Nicholas — a daughter (Caroline Sonya), a sister for Georgina.
PAYNE.—On 22nd February, 1982, to Theresa (nee Philippe) and Christopher—a daughter (Harriet Sarah Joan), a sister for Joseph and Benjamin.

DEATHS

ALLSOPP.—On Thursday, February 18th, peacefully, Agnes Harriet, aged 96, of Bathampton and West Lavington. Funeral service at Haycombe Crematorium, Whiteway, Bath, on Thursday, February 25th at 2.40 pm. Family flowers only please.
BEARDMORE.—On February 22, 1982, peacefully after a short illness, Mabel, much loved and respected, widow of J. D. K. Beardmore. Funeral service at St. Marylebone Crematorium on Friday, February 26th, at 12 noon. Please no flowers, but if desired, donations may be sent to The Arthritic and Rheumatism Council for Research.
BECKETT, HUGUETTE.—On 20 February in Dorking. Beloved wife of Noel, daughter of Juliette Stahlberg, and mother of Geraldine, Christopher and Viviane. Her beauty and goodness will always be remembered by her family and her many, many friends.
CAREY.—On Saturday, February 20th, 1982, Clare, widow of Dr Charles Carey, dearly loved by her children and sons-in-law, Mary and Aidan, Charles, Ann and Tom, Patrick, Peter, Frances and Sargy, and by her grandchildren. Requiem Mass 2.00 p.m., Thursday, February 25th at The Church Of Our Lady Of Lourdes, Burnt Ash Hill, Lee, followed by burial.
CREMER.—On February 12th, after a happy life, lived to the full, Debbie, aged 22, daughter of Yvonne and Donald, and sister of Rebecca, of Knightwood Hill Road, Haslemere, Surrey. Family funeral took place on February 19th. Adored by us all and forever with us.
DAWSON.—On February 18th, peacefully at home Helen Christine Dawson (nee McIver) aged 58 years, of Trelawney, Pepper Lane, Earley, Reading. Funeral service in St Barnabas Church, Reading, on Friday, February 26th at 2 p.m., followed by cremation. All enquiries to Cyril H. Lovegrove, 114-116 Oxford Rd., Reading. Telephone 52016.
EDMUNDS.—On Sunday, February 21, Stanley Percival (Lt. Col. 1st Punjab Regiment retired) in his 70th year. Beloved brother of Margaret Fowler, Glebeside Cottage, Henham, and Barbara Lough, The Old Forge, White Roding, uncle and great uncle. Funeral St Mary's Church, Henham, on Monday March 1st at 2.15 p.m. No flowers, donations if desired to The Army Benevolent Fund.
EMBERSON.—On 18th February, 1982, in hospital, Grace Alberta Louise (nee Caves), of Northcote Road, Southsea, widow of the Reverend Stanley William Emberson. Service at St. Margaret's Church, Eastney, on Thursday, 25th February, at 3.45 p.m., followed by cremation. Inquiries to Dashwood & Denyer, telephone Portsmouth 823855.
FAIRHOLME.—On Friday, February 19th, in a car accident in France Marie-Laure, aged 18 years, eldest daughter of Laura and Gerald.
GADALLA, HASHEM MANNA.—Suddenly on February 17th. All enquiries Donna & Co., 39 Brent St., N.W.4, 01-202 8008.
HALL.—On February 19th, 1982 at Coulsdon, Teenor Alicia Esther Hall, aged 80, dearly loved sister of Jo and John and of the late May, Wilfred and Joyce.
HENDERSON, NEIL BRODIE.—Peacefully on Sunday, 21st February, much loved father of Ian, Alan and Jean. Funeral strictly family only. Memorial service at St. Nicholas Church, Great Hormead, at 3 p.m. on Thursday, 25th March.
HENRIQUES.—On 21st February, 1982, Lily Quixano Henriques, the widow of Edward and the mother of David and Steven, by whom she is deeply mourned. Cremation at Golders Green Crematorium East Chapel, Friday, 26th February, at 11.50 a.m. No flowers.
HOARE.—Violet on February 23rd peacefully at Ranyard Memorial Nursing Home, Lewisham, SE13. Funeral 3 p.m. on March 2nd at Lewisham Crematorium.
HORE.—On February 20th, peacefully in hospital, Alfred Michael, aged 72, late of Manaos, Brazil, Belize, British Honduras and in retirement at Battle, Sussex. Sadly missed by all his family and friends. Cremation at Colchester, Monday, March 1st, 2 p.m. Flowers to Deacons, High Street, Lavenham, Sudbury.
MANNING.—On February 20th, 1982 at Salisbury, aged 95 years, Eva Marion, eldest daughter of William and Marion Manning of Sydney, Australia, formerly on the staff of the Glennie Memorial School, Toowoomba, Queensland and of the Godolphin School, Salisbury, dearly loved sister of Peggy Carley sister-in-law of Phyllis Manning and aunt of Elizabeth, Richard, Judith and Christine. Funeral service at St Martin's Church on Wednesday, March 3rd at 11.30 a.m. Family flowers only. If desired donations to St Martin's Church Appeal Fund, St Martin's Rectory, Salisbury SP1 2JJ.
McILROY.—On December 26th, 1981, Andrew Charles, aged 30 years, second son of Malcolm and Margaret McIlroy, brother of Patrick, Elizabeth, William and Douglas of Belvedere, California. Memorial service at Old St Hilary's, Tiburon, California, February 23rd, 1982.
MILLAR.—On February 22nd, peacefully at his home in Benson, Oxford, after a short illness, Andrew Patrick, D.S.O., D.F.C., M.B., B.S., aged 62, husband of Anne, and father of Jill, Andrew and Sally. Funeral at Benson Parish Church on Thursday, 25th, at 3 p.m. No flowers, please. Donations if wished, to Benson Day Centre Equipment Fund, c/o Richard Rowse, Ewelme.
MOULTRIE.—On 22nd February, suddenly at her home in Hornchurch, Irene Hazel Moultrie (nee Cast), aged 66, wife of Jack, mother of Margaret, Vivian and Katherine, and fond grandmother of five, late Mayoress of the London Borough of Havering. Funeral service at St. Andrew's Church, High Street, Hornchurch, on Monday, 1st March, at 11.45 a.m., followed by private cremation service at South Essex Crematorium for family and close friends.
MURPHY.—On February 20th, suddenly but peacefully at home, Arthur Albert, much-loved and loving husband of Connie, father, father-in-law and grandfather. Cremation noon March 1st at Streatham Park Crematorium, Rowan Road, S.W.16. Family flowers only. Donations to Royal Masonic Hospital, Ravenscourt Park, W.6. A memorial service will be held later.
PHILIPS.—On February 22nd in Mexico City of complications following surgery after a fall, Charles Herbert Eckersley Philips OBE, aged 82.
PLATTS.—On February 22nd, in hospital after a very short illness, Harry, most dear husband of Joan Marguerite (Jane), nee Hunt, of 13 St. Martin's Road, Bristol. Funeral service at South Bristol Crematorium on Friday, 26th February, at 2 p.m. Family flowers only, but donations if desired, to The Musicians Benevolent Fund, 16 Ogle Street London, W.1.
RICHARDSON.—On February 21st, 1982, suddenly at Brighton, Nancy Y. F. Richardson (nee Bosanquet) aged 86 years of Osborne Villas, Hove and lately of Tunbridge Wells. Much loved and greatly respected friend to so many. Funeral service at The Downs Crematorium, Bear Road, Brighton, on Tuesday March 2nd at 3 p.m. No flowers by request. Enquiries to: Ashtons, 121 St James's Street, Brighton 681451.
TYLER.—William Joseph of Chesterton Road, Cambridge (retired Chartered Accountant). Suddenly but peacefully to rest at his home on February 10th, 1982, aged 81 years. The funeral service and committal will take place at 5 p.m. on Friday, February 26th at Cambridge Crematorium. Floral tributes may be sent to the Co-operative Funeral Service Chapel of Rest, James Street, Cambridge.
WESTALL.—On Monday, February 22nd, aged 81, Bishop Wilfrid Westall beloved husband of Ruth and loving father and grandfather. Funeral private: family flowers only. Details of Thanksgiving Service will be announced later.
WILDER.—On Sunday, February 21st, 1982, peacefully at Thames Bank Nursing Home, Goring-on-Thames, Oxon, Ruby Heather, nee Bilbrough, widow of Henry Wilder and mother of Iris Moon, of Sulham House, Pangbourne, Berkshire. Cremation private. No flowers, mourning or letters please.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

BUCKLEY.—A memorial service for Oonah Buckley will be held at Chelsea Old Church, at 3.30 p.m. on Thursday, March 4th.
COWLISHAW.—A memorial service for Miss Margaret Cowlishaw will be held at St. Simon Zelotes' Church, Milner Street, S.W.1, on Friday, March 5th, at 12.15 p.m.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

BRIGADIER R. S. DOYLE

A thanksgiving and Memorial Service for Brigadier R. S. Doyle, C.B.E., D.L., will be held on Saturday 13 March 1982 within St. Ninians Parish Church, Glenrothes, at 11 a.m.

All persons wishing to attend this service are requested to obtain a card from Mr. J. MacDonald, Balbirnie House, Glenrothes, or the Information Kiosk at Unicorn House, Kingdom Centre, Glenrothes.

IN MEMORIAM

COWAN.—In loving memory of Lucy Cowan, who died on February 24th, 1964.—Dorothy, Jack.
DAWSON-BOWLING. — Canon. J.O.M., Dawson-Bowling, M.A., died 24th February, 1980, after a long and caring ministry, remembered always with love and thankfulness.

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CALE, RUSSELL MILES CALE, late of 67 Windsor Road, Mansfield, Nottingham, died at Mansfield on 7 February, 1981 (Estate about £12,800).
MUNZER, CECIL HAROLD MUNZER, late of St David's Home, Castlebar Hill, Ealing, London, W.5, died there on 3 March 1981 (Estate about £11,000).
STEDMAN, nee WILSON ELEANOR JANE STEDMAN otherwise **ELEANOR STEDMAN,** nee WILSON, widow, late of 21 Bently Street, Cleethorpes, South Humberside, died at Grimsby on 18 February, 1981 (Estate about £9,000).
Cale, London SW1E 6LJ, failing which the Treasury Solicitor may take steps to administer the estate.
STOKES, MARY ELEANOR STOKES, spinster, late of Banstead Hospital, Sutton, Surrey, died there on 10 July, 1981 (Estate about £2,200).
THREDGLE, nee STANDEN, DOROTHY ETHEL THREDGLE, nee STANDEN, widow, late of 7 Clifton Road, Henlow, Bedford, died Chesham, Buckinghamshire, on 25 December, 1980 (Estate about £28,000).
The kin of the above-named are requested to apply to the Treasury Solicitor (B.V.), 12 Buckingham

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Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Dear

BBC 1

6.40 Open University: Going to Sea. 7.05 Species and Evolution. 7.30 Biology, Brain and Behaviour: Introduction. 7.55 Closedown. 9.05 For Schools, Colleges: Technical Studies: Heat treatment. 9.38 Science workshop. 10.00 You and Me. For the very young (not Schools) (r). 10.15 Everyday Maths. 10.38 Home Economics: Fats. 11.00 Words and Pictures. 11.17 Music: Brass. 11.40 Natural details. 12.05 French for beginners course. 12.30 News After Noon with Richard Whitmore and Moira Stuart 12.57 Regional news (London and SE only: Financial report and news headlines with subtitles) 1.00 Pebble Mill at One. Among the guests is the new lead dancer in the musical 'Cats', 19-year-old Donald Waugh. 1.45 Postman Pat. For the very young (r). 2.01 For Schools, Colleges: Early Life. 2.18 Near and Far. 2.40 Merry-go-round. 3.05 Songs of Praise from Shifnal in the Severn Valley introduced by Geoffrey Wheeler (r). 3.40 Play It Safe!: Safety hints for children. 3.53 Regional news (not London).

3.55 Play School. For the under fives (shown earlier on BBC 2).
4.20 Cartoon: Pixie and Dixie in Good Good Fairy (r).
4.25 Jackanory. Colin Jeavons with part three of Grimm Grange (r).
4.40 Take Hart. Tony Hart with a drawing programme for the young.
5.00 John Craven's Newsround.
5.05 Grandad starring Clive Dunn.
5.35 Ivor the Engine.
5.40 News with Richard Baker 6.00 South East at Six 6.25 Nationwide presented by David Dimbleby and Sue Lawley.
6.50 Rolf Harris Cartoon Time. Two featuring Droopy and one each from Bugs Bunny and Tom and Jerry.
7.20 The British Rock and Pop Awards. The results of the nationwide polling introduced by Sue Cook and Dave Lee Travis.
8.10 Batley. The story of the rise and fall of Batley Variety Club narrated by Michael Parkinson. Among those singing its praises are Shirley Bassey, Lulu and Vera Lynn.

9.00 News with John Humphrys.
9.25 Film: The Yakuza (1974) starring Robert Mitchum. He plays Harry Kilmer, a former private detective who is hastily called to Tokyo by a wealthy ship-owner whose daughter has been kidnapped by the Yakuza — the Japanese equivalent of the Mafia. Kilmer is aided in his task by a renegade member of the organization, Tanaka Ken, and the two of them set about bringing the perpetrators to justice — a task that is both bloody and brutal.
11.13 News headlines.
11.15 Parkinson. International singing star Tony Bennett is a guest tonight. He will sing three songs and talk about his forthcoming eleven-concert tour of Britain which begins on Friday. Others appearing are ballet dancer Rudolph Nureyev and Miss Bluebell, the legendary foundress of the world famous Parisian dancing group.
12.10 Weather.

BBC 2

6.40 Open University: Maths: Maps. 7.05 Argument on Television: 1. 7.30 Kepler's War. 7.55 Closedown. 10.20 Gharbar. A magazine programme of interest to Asian women. 10.45 Closedown. 11.00 Play School. For the under fives presented by Carol Chell and Stuart McGugan. The story this morning is Fish Fly by Anne Callow. 11.25 Closedown. 12.30 Open University: Developing Mathematical Thinking: Measuring. 1.20 Closedown. 1.20 Racing from Ascot. Richard Pitman introduces the Durham Ranger Novices' Hurdle (1.30); the Peter Ross Novices' Chase (2.05); the Lambert and Butler Premier Chase Final (2.40); and the Hairy Mary Handicap Hurdle (3.15). The commentators are Julian Wilson and John Hanmer. 3.30 Closedown. 3.55 Landscapes of England. Professor W. G. Hoskins explains the reasons why Cornwall is so distinctive (r).

4.20 Dayan. Part two of the three-part profile of the Israeli soldier and statesman (r).
5.05 Gillian Tingay (harp) plays Bochsa's Study No 1 (r).
5.10 Body and Mind. Are we machines? (r).
5.40 Laurel and Hardy in Towed in the Hole* (1933).
6.00 The Water Margin. Adventures of ancient Chinese knights.
6.45 The Making of Mankind. Part 4. Richard Leakey traces the story of Peking Man (r).
7.35 News with subtitles.
7.40 The Master Game. Jeremy James introduces the chess match between America's Larry Christiansen and Andras Adorjan of Hungary.
8.10 Chronicle: Riot. Simon Winchester takes a look at Britain's riots from the time of the 1714 Riot Act.

9.00 M*A*S*H. Due to a shortage of workers Hawkeye and Hunnicut become "morale officers". In the meantime Major Winchester's latest patient is a pianist who has lost the use of a hand.
9.25 Nancy Astor. Nancy is now Mrs Shaw and the bad footing on which her marriage started continues as husband Robert turns to drink, gambling and illicit affairs. Divorce is decided upon, but only on the grounds of Robert's adultery.
10.15 Out of Court. Nick Ross and Jane Walmsley with the legal headlines of the week.
10.45 Newsnight. 11.30 Interval.
11.40 Open University: World Food Production. Ends at 12.05.

ITV/LONDON

9.30 For Schools: Magic. For the hearing impaired. 9.47 Mime by Marcel Marceau. 10.04 How petrol and oil are obtained. 10.16 France and the French way of life. 10.33 Problems encountered in the early part of marriage. 11.02 Manufacturing steel in Sheffield. 11.20 Foot care. 11.39 The beginning of the National Health Service. 12.00 Windfalls. A new series for pre-school children presented by Jenny Kenna. 12.10 Rainbow. Learning with puppets. 12.30 Movie Memories introduced by Roy Hudd. Featuring 'B' Movie westerns and Diana Dors. 1.00 News. 1.20 Thames news 1.30 Take the High Road. Drama series set on a Highland estate. 2.00 After Noon Plus. Mary Parkinson and Kay Avila check on five people who have up smoking a year ago. 2.45 The Six Million Dollar Man: A laser beam threatens a group of prime ministers at a Paris conference. Can Steve locate the source in time? (r). 3.45 Definition. Pete Murray and Aimi MacDonald are the celebrities in Don Moss's crossword quiz.

4.15 Cartoon: Dr Snuggles (r).
4.20 Madabout. Basil Brush and Denise Coffey reveal their hobbies to Michael Bentine. Last in the series.
4.45 Arthur of the Britons. A former wild man who has become a Christian returns to his clan and becomes even more of a nuisance (r).
5.15 Mr Merlin. Comic adventures of a wizard disguised as a garage manager.
5.45 News. 6.00 Thames news.
6.25 Help! Viv Taylor Gee with news of Labyrix, a feminist mini-cab service set up to protect women from attack during the late evening.
6.35 Crossroads. Kevin steels himself to tell Carole that they must go their separate ways.
7.00 This is your Life. Eamonn Andrews with another surprised celebrity.
7.30 Coronation Street. Mrs Stockwell meets Elsie Tanner.
8.00 Starburst. A nine-act variety show. Among those appearing are Helen Gelzer, the exciting star of Bubbling Brown Sugar and guitarist Michael Conn.

9.00 Minder. Ernie Dodds is released from prison after serving fourteen years. He turns to Arthur for a short-term loan before he can collect his hidden loot of a quarter of a million pounds. In the meantime he needs a minder and Terry is chosen. What he doesn't know is that Ernie wants to settle a few old scores before he collects his ill-gotten gains.
10.00 News.
10.30 Film: Sicilian Cross (1976) starring Roger Moore and Stacy Keach. Moore plays the nephew and lawyer of San Francisco Mafia leader, Salvatore Francesco. Moore is sent to investigate a mysterious incident which leads him and his friend Charlie (Stacy Keach) into the twilight world of drug smuggling.
12.20 Close with a poetry reading by Robert Kilroy-Silk.

CHOICE

● Roy Hudd's request programme for cinema buffs MOVIE MEMORIES (ITV, not Anglia, 12.30pm) begins a welcome second series today with the accent on those wonderful B feature westerns. The viewers have a delightfully catholic taste and we are treated to clips of their choice which include the magnificent Buck Jones in his 1941 film Forbidden Trails and an extremely young looking John Wayne in Three Texas Steers, one of the forty he made before he achieved fame in Stagecoach. For those of us who love these old cowboy pictures Roy Hudd invites Colin Momber, secretary of the B-Western Society to give us details of his Society. In the second half the indestructible Diana Dors reminds us that she was not just a pretty face but an actress of some talent with an excerpt from the 1956 film, Yield to the Night, in which she plays a condemned prisoner. Marvellous entertainment but at an inaccessible hour for most of us.

● Michael Parkinson is the narrator for BATLEY (BBC 1 8.10pm) a documentary about the legendary Batley Variety Club, once heralded as Britain's Cesar's Palace. It was opened in 1967 by fairground and bingo operator, James Corrigan, and attracted top names in the entertainment world. For ten years it thrived, then began to falter and is now defunct. The programme traces the reasons for its decline.

● I THINK I WAS BORN TRILLING (Radio 4 7.45pm) is a documentary about the Victorian prima donna, Adeline Patti. She began her career as a precocious seven-year-old singing one of the more difficult arias from Bellini's Norma and by the time she was sixteen the Madrid-born singer had made her professional opera debut, appearing in the New York production of Lucia di Lammermoor. From this auspicious beginning she went from strength to strength, eventually becoming one of the most highly paid performers in opera. Her admirers were legion and included Verdi who, when asked to name his three favourite prima donnas replied "Patti, Patti and Patti". Her wealth grew as did her love of Britain and she bought a castle in Wales. It was from there that she was persuaded to record her voice for the first time at the age of 62 and these priceless recordings can be heard in this dramatised biography by Peggy Branford. Angela Down takes the part of Patti and the supporting cast includes Douglas Livesey and David March with the narration by Nigel Anthony.

Max Wall: Minder (ITV 9.00pm)

Radio 4

6.00 News Briefing. 6.10 Farming Today. 6.30 Today. 8.35 Yesterday in Parliament. 8.57 Weather. 9.00 News. 9.05 Midweek: Henry Kelly.† 10.00 News. 10.02 Gardeners' Question Time visits Stagenhoe. 10.30 Daily Service. 10.45 Morning Story: 'In the House of Proverbs' by Barbara Crowther. 11.00 News. 11.05 Baker's Dozen. Richard Baker plays records. 12.00 News. 12.02 You and Yours. 12.27 Around the World in 25 Years with Johnny Morris.† 1.00 The World at One: News. 1.40 The Archers. 2.00 News. 2.02 Woman's Hour. 3.00 News. 3.02 Afternoon Theatre: "Two Plus One" by Josphine Bacon. 3.50 Smith invades the Capital (new series) Phil Smith explores. 4.30 Story Time: "Welsh Fargo" by Harry Secombe (3). 4.40 The Countryside in February. Thirty years of "Countryside". 5.00 PM: News Magazine. 6.00 The Six O'Clock News including Financial Report. 6.30 My Word! A panel game.† 7.00 News. 7.05 The Archers. 7.20 Checkpoint. 7.45 I Think I Was Born Trilling. The story of the celebrated prima donna, Adelina Patti. 8.45 File on 4. Major issues, important events at home and abroad. 9.30 Kaleidoscope. 10.00 The World Tonight: News. 10.30 Quote ... Unquote Nigel Rees and guests share favourite quotations and identify others. 11.00 A Book at Bedtime: "A Confederacy of Dunces" by John Kennedy Toole. 11.15 The Financial World Tonight. 11.30 Today in Parliament. 12.00 News: Weather report; forecast. 12.15 Shipping Forecast; Inshore Waters Forecast.

VHF only: 6.30-6.34 Morning Sou'West 10.00 For Schools. 10.30-10.45 Listen with Mother 11.00-12.00 and 2.00-3.00 For Schools. 11.00 Study on 4: African and Caribbean Writing (r). 11.30-12.10 Open University: Women (1): Scientific Approaches to Personality.

Radio 3

6.55 Weather. 7.00 News. 7.05 Your Midweek Choice. Record requests: Frederick the Great, Schubert, Haydn.† 8.00 News. 8.05 Your Midweek Choice (continued) Jarnefelt, Offenbach, Shostakovich, Grieg.† 9.00 News. 9.05 This Week's Composer: Berners: records.† 9.55 Viola Da Gamba and Harpsichord: Recital: Christopher Simpson, Bach, Antoine Forqueray.† 10.45 Italian Songs: Recital of songs by Tosti.† 11.20 Two Recorders: Recital: Tippett, Hans Ulrich Staeps.† 11.45 BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra: Concert: Mendelssohn.† 1.00 News. 1.05 Concert Hall: String Quartet recital: Schubert, Brahms.† 2.00 Music Weekly.† 2.40 Jazzman Talking: Milt Jackson in conversation with Charles Fox.† 4.00 Choral Evensong for Ash Wednesday from the Chapel of St John's College, Cambridge. 4.55 News. 5.00 Mainly for Pleasure. Lionel Salter introduces the programme that takes us musically from sunset to sunrise with works by Schubert, Mozart, Chopin, Schumann, Satie, Borodin, Wolf, Grieg, Delius and Mussorgsky.† 7.00 Rachmaninov on record.† 7.30 Scientifically Speaking. 8.00 BBC Symphony Orchestra: Concert direct from the Royal Festival Hall, London. Part 1: Sessions, Walton.† 8.55 Six Continents. 9.15 Concert Part 2: Beethoven.† 10.00 The Winking Goose. Talk by John Arden about the 16th-century poet John Skelton. 10.20 Chopin on record. 10.30 Lassus: The first of seven recitals of Lenten music.† 11.00 News. 11.05 Sibelius on record. VHF only: 5.55 am Open University: Looking at Rocks. 6.15-6.45 19th century Musical Trends. 11.20 pm Life and Death. 11.40 Reading Development. 12.00 Bon Accord. 12.20 Hardy and the Ballads. 12.40-1.00 am Fielding and Patronage.

Roy Plomley says Be My Guest (Radio 2 10.30pm)

Radio 2

5.0 Ray Moore.† 7.30 Terry Wogan.† 10.0 Jimmy Young.† 12.0 Gloria Hunniford including 1.45 Sports Desk.† 2.0 Ed Stewart including 2.45, 3.45 Sports Desk.† 4.0 David Hamilton including 4.45m Sport Desk.† 5.45 News: Sport 6.0 John Dunn including 6.45 Sports Desk.† 8.0 International Soccer Special: Spain v Scotland: commentary. 9.30* Sounds of the Sun with David Bellan.† 9.55 Sports Desk. 10.0 Pros and Cons. A celebrity quiz game. 10.30 Be My Guest says Roy Plomley. 11.0 Brian Matthew with Round Midnight, including 12.0 Midnight Newsroom: Weather. Motoring Information (in Stereo from 12.0 midnight)— 1.0 Truckers' Hour with Sheila Tracy.† 2.0-5.0 You and the Night and the Music with David Bellan.†

Radio 1

5.0 As Radio 2. 7.0 Mike Read. 9.0 Simon Bates. 11.30 Dave Lee Travis, including 12.30 Newsbeat. 2.0 Paul Burnett. 3.30 Steve Wright. 5.0 Peter Powell. 7.0 Radio 1 Mailbag: Phone-in on 01-580 4411. 8.0 David Jensen. 10.0 John Peel.† 12.0 Close.

World Service

BBC World Service can be received in Western Europe on medium wave 648 kHz (463m) at the following times GMT: 6.00am Newsdesk. 7.00 World News. 7.09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary. 7.30 Letter From London 7.40 Book Choice. 7.45 Report on Religion. 8.00 World News. 8.09 Reflections. 8.15 The King of Instruments. [illegible] 3.09 News about Britain. 3.15 The World Today 3.30 My Word! 4.00 Newsdesk. 5.45 The World Today.

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1 MF 1053kHz/285m or 1089kHz/275m Radio 2 MF 693kHz/433m or 909kHz/330m. Radio 1/2 VHF 88-91MHz. Radio 3 VHF 90-92.5MHz, MF 1215kHz/247m. Radio 4 LF 200kHz/1500m and VHF 92-95MHz. Greater London Area MF 720kHz/417m. LBC MF 1152kHz/261m, VHF 97.3MHz. Capital MF 1548kHz/194m, VHF 95.8MHz. BBC Radio London MF 1458kHz/206m and VHF 94.9MHz. World Service MF 648kHz/463m.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

BBC1

Cymru/Wales 11.17am-11.40am I Ysgolion: Dasaryddiaeth. 12.57-1.00 News of Wales. 2.18-2.40 I Ysgolion: Hyn Oed. 5.00-5.35 Grange Hill (part 15). 6.00-6.25 Wales Today. 7.20 Heddiw. 8.10-8.35 Dr. Who. 8.35-9.00 Snooker: Welsh Professional Championships. 12.10am News and weather. Scotland 12.55-1.00 The Scottish News. 2.40-3.00 For Schools: Around Scotland. 6.00-6.25 Reporting Scotland. 6.50-7.20 Fanfare. Brass Band Championship. 11.15-11.45 International Sportscene, highlights of Spain v Scotland. 11.45 News and weather. Northern Ireland 12.57pm-1.00pm Northern Ireland News. 3.53-3.55 Northern Ireland News. 6.00-6.25 Scene Around Six. 6.50-7.20 Prospect. 12.10am News and weather. England 6.00pm-6.25pm Regional News Magazines. 6.50-7.20 East — Sounds New. London and South East — Rolf Harris Cartoon Time. Midlands — Challenge. North — Lifelines. North East — Heroes. North West — Finding Out. South — South Sport. South West — The Music Quiz. West — RPM. 12.15 Close.

TYNE TEES

As Thames except: Starts 9.20 The Good Word. 9.25-9.30 North East News. 1.20 North East News. 1.25-1.30 Where The Jobs Are. 2.45-3.45 The Love Boat. 5.15-5.45 Private Benjamin. 6.00 North East News. 6.02 Crossroads. 6.25-7.00 Northern Life. 12.20 Judaism. 12.25 Closedown.

GRANADA

As Thames except: 12.30pm-1.00 Mr and Mrs. 1.20 Granada Reports. 1.30-2.00 Exchange Flags. 2.30 Multi-Million Viewer Audition. 2.45-3.45 Great Depression: Britain. 5.15-5.45 Private Benjamin. 6.00 This Is Your Right. 6.05 Crossroads. 6.30-7.00 Granada Reports. 10.30 Film: Deadly Affair (James Mason) security agent sets out to break an espionage ring. 12.30am Closedown.

CENTRAL

As Thames except: 1.20pm-1.30 News. 2.45-3.45 Hagen (Chad Everett) 5.15-5.45 Radio. 6.00 Crossroads. 6.25-7.00 News. 12.20am Mannix. 1.20 Closedown.

SCOTTISH

As Thames except: 1.20pm News. 1.30-2.00 Full Life: Lord Beeching. 2.45-3.45 Great Depression. 5.10 Trivial Tales. 5.20-5.45 Crossroads. 6.00 Scotland Today. 6.20 Action Line. 6.30-7.00 Report. 12.20am Late Call. 12.25 Closedown.

YORKSHIRE

As Thames except: 1.20pm-1.30 News. 2.45-3.45 Trapper John. 5.15-5.45 Private Benjamin. 6.00-6.35 Calendar. 12.20am Closedown.

CHANNEL

As Thames except: 1.20-1.30 News. 2.45-3.45 Trapper John. 5.20-5.45 Crossroads. 6.00 Channel Report. 6.35-7.00 Ladies First. 12.20 am Epilogue followed by Closedown.

HTV

As Thames except: 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.45 Bracken. 3.45-4.15 History Makers. Napoleon: End of a dictator. 4.45 Sport Billy. 5.10 Ask Oscar! 5.20-5.45 Crossroads. 6.00 News. 6.30-7.00 Sing a Song with Me. 12.20 am Closedown.

HTV CYMRU/WALES

As HTV West except: 12.00-12.10 pm Ffalabalam. 4.15 Mr Merlin. 4.45 Y Rheilffordd Gudd. 5.10-5.20 Dick Tracy. 6.00 Y Dydd. 6.15-6.30 Report Wales.

TVS

As Thames except: 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.45-3.45 Great Depression: Britain. 5.15 Radio. 5.30-5.45 Coast to Coast. 6.00-6.35 Coast to Coast. 12.20 am Company, followed by Closedown.

BORDER

As Thames except: 1.20pm-1.30 News. 2.45-3.45 Bracken. 5.15-5.45 Radio. 6.00-6.35 Lookaround. 12.20am News. 12.23 Closedown.

GRAMPIAN

As Thames except: Starts 9.25am-9.30 First Thing. 1.20pm-1.30 News. 2.45-3.45 Great Depression: Britain. 5.15-5.45 Private Benjamin. 6.00-6.35 North Tonight. 12.20am News. 12.25 Closedown.

ANGLIA

As Thames except: 1.20pm-1.30 News. 2.45-3.45 Trapper John. 5.15-5.45 Happy Days. 6.00-6.35 About Anglia. 12.20am Big Question..

ULSTER

As Thames except: 1.20pm-1.30 Lunchtime. 2.45-3.45 Great Depression: Britain. 5.15 Radio. 5.30-5.45 Good Evening Ulster. 6.00-6.35 Good Evening Ulster. 12.20am News at Bedtime, Closedown.

TSW

As Thames except: 1.20pm-1.30 News. 2.45-3.45 Trapper John. 5.15 Gus Honeybun. 5.20-5.45 Crossroads. 6.00 Today South West. 6.30-7.00 Day in the Life of . . . Barnstaple Fair. 12.20am Postscript. 12.26 Closedown.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN: † STEREO ★ BLACK AND WHITE: (r) REPEAT.

Queen's Bench Division — Law Report February 24 1982 — Chancery Division

No power to delete rider under Act

Regina v HM Coroner for the County of London, Ex parte Rubenstein

Before Mr Justice Glidewell

[Judgment delivered February 19]

Where an application was brought before the High Court under section 6 of the Coroners Act 1887 by leave of the Attorney General for an order to quash an inquisition and verdict given by a judge and jury, a judge of the High Court had no power to amend the verdict.

Mr Justice Glidewell in a reserved judgment, so held on an application by Dr David Isaac Rubenstein, of Wood Green, London, for an order to quash the verdict and inquisition and rider upon the death of Stephen Langdale returned by the respondent Dr Harold Price, the coroner at Walthamstow Coroners Court, and a jury on February 11, 1981. His Lordship made an order to quash the verdict and ordered that a new inquest with a new coroner be convened.

Mr Henry Brooke, QC, and Mr Timothy Wormington for Dr Rubenstein; The coroner was not present or represented; Mr Fenton Bresler for Mrs Langdale.

MR JUSTICE GLIDEWELL said in the Queen's Bench Division that until November 23, 1980, Stephen Langdale had been in good health. On that day, after a lunch-time drink in a public house, he drove his car off the road and crashed into some railings. He was seen to stagger about and the police were called.

At the police station a breath test proved positive, and Dr Rubenstein, a police surgeon, was called to take a blood sample. That sample later showed 33 milligrammes of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood.

The doctor concluded that Mr Langdale was drunk. He was put in a detention cell where he lay slumped. Six hours later when the duty sergeant changed, his condition if anything, was worse. It was clear that if he was drunk he should have sobered up to some extent. Accordingly, Dr Rubenstein was called again, and on seeing him arranged for him to be sent to hospital.

Initially it was concluded that he was drunk, but after tests a lumber puncture was made and disclosed that a subarachnoid haemorrhage had occurred. Despite all the hospital could do another haemorrhage occurred and he died.

The jury's verdict at the inquest was death by natural causes "aggravated by neglect". No one had suggested any neglect after his arrival at the hospital. It related to the time in police custody.

The coroner made a recommendation which might be construed as a reflection on Dr Rubenstein, and as the matter was reported in the press and affected his professional standing, he had bought the present application.

It was submitted on the doctor's behalf that the verdict "aggravated by neglect" transgressed rule 33 of the Coroners Rules 1953 (SI 205) as amended by the Coroners (Amendment) Rules 1977 (SI 1881); that at the inquest Dr Rubenstein had *not* been given any warning that he might be blamed and so was not given the opportunity to be represented, contrary to the rules of natural justice; and that there had been no evidence on which a verdict "aggravated by neglect" could properly be based.

Before a verdict of "aggravated by neglect" could properly be left to the jury or returned by them there must be some evidence of neglect. In the present case there was only the slimmest evidence that there was any neglect, and the evidence of that had only been given with hindsight so it was unsafe to rely on it.

The matter was clear when it came to causation. There was no evidence at all that what happened between the arrival at the police station and the arrival at the hospital in any way caused Mr Langdale's death.

Therefore the chain of evidence on which the verdict depended was incomplete. The jury were not entitled to bring in a verdict of "aggravated by neglect" and the coroner should not have left it to them, accordingly the verdict would be quashed on that ground.

However, in respect of the submission on rule 33 it was necessary to add that by that rule as amended a verdict could not be framed in a way that appeared to determine any question of civil or criminal liability.

The jury should not have been left to add the rider "aggravated by neglect", and in those circumstances it would be more convenient to delete those words. Where a case was brought under the general common law a rider could be amended deleting words, but where the application to quash was brought under section 6 of the 1887 Act, a High Court judge had no such power. Accordingly, the inquisition would be quashed and a fresh inquisition with a new coroner ordered.

Solicitors: Hempsons; R. A. Roberts.

Unfair to impose tenancy variations

O'May and Others (practising as Ince & Co) v City of London Real Property Co Ltd

Before Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, Lord Chancellor, Lord Wilberforce, Lord Keith of Kinkel, Lord Scarman and Lord Brandon of Oakbrook

[Speeches delivered February 18]

Variations in the terms of a current business tenancy, proposed by landlords when the tenants applied to the court for a new tenancy under the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954, and which were aimed at obtaining a "clear lease", thereby enhancing the value of the property, would, the House of Lords held, be unfair to the short-term tenant and should not be sanctioned by the court when exercising its discretion under the Act.

Their Lordships dismissed an appeal by the City of London Real Property Co Ltd, landlords of a modern office block at Byward Street and Seething Lane, London, from the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Buckley, Lord Justice Shaw and Lord Justice Brightman) (*The Times*, June 26, 1980; [1981] Ch 216) which had allowed an appeal by tenants from Mr Justice Goulding as to the terms of a new business tenancy under part II of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954.

The tenants, Mr Donald Robert O'May and others, were a firm of solicitors practising as Ince & Co. They held the fifth floor of Knollys House together with some parking space in the basement, under a five-year lease from March, 1972. In January, 1977, they applied for the grant of a new tenancy under the 1954 Act as amended.

The landlords did not oppose the grant of a new tenancy for three years, terminating on March 24, 1982; but a dispute arose as to the rent to be paid and the terms to be embodied in its operative covenants. The landlords had produced a draft lease with proposals to vary certain terms of the current lease.

The scheme of the draft was to place on the landlords the obligation to provide all services to the building, and to repair, maintain and decorate it (save for the demised premises), but also entitle them to recover, as additional service rent, a proportion of the money spent on services and external and internal repairs, plus a yearly sum, being estimated provision for depreciation of lifts, boilers and other equipment.

To compensate the tenants for the burden of the additional liability, the landlords proposed a 50p reduction in the new rent per square foot of £10.50.

Mr Justice Goulding granted a new tenancy on the terms put forward by the landlords. On appeal by the tenants, the Court of Appeal held in allowing the appeal in accordance with section 35 of the 1954 Act, that where the financial risks implicit in the maintenance of the structure of an office block were shifted to a short-term tenant with compensation in the form of a small reduction in rent, the tenant was not adequately compensated for the assumption of financial risks which were proper to be borne by the freeholder or the owner of a long-term of years.

Mr Ronald Bernstein, QC and Mr B. K. Levy for the landlords; Mr Derek Wood, QC and Mr Jonathan Gaunt for the tenants.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR said that the origin of the dispute between the parties derived from the landlords' desire to convert the terms of the tenancy, which did not previously possess that characteristic, into what was known as a "clear lease".

The effect of that proposal would, on the evidence, be to enhance the value of the landlords' reversion by a sum between one and two million pounds, and at the same time render it more readily marketable. The purpose of a "clear lease" was to render the income derived from the rent payable by the tenants as little subject to fluctuation in respect of outgoings as possible.

The method proposed by the landlords was to transfer in effect the risk of fluctuation of the items in the covenants to the tenants by providing that the landlords should be fully reimbursed for fluctuations in what had been referred to as the service charge, in return for a diminution in the fixed element in the rent — calculated at a sum of 50p a square foot, reducing the fixed rent component which would otherwise be £10.50 a square foot to £10 if a clear lease were granted. The main bone of contention was that the tenants were unwilling to be insurers of the risk of fluctuation and would prefer to pay the full fixed rent of £10.50 a square foot.

It went without saying that where an office block was in multiple occupation by different business tenants, the management of the common parts, the exterior and services such as lifts and lighting, must normally be part of the landlord's responsibility; and that was so under the terms of the old tenancy in the instant case.

The details and the effect of the landlord's scheme were stated by Lord Justice Brightman (at pp225-226 of [1981] 1 Ch 218) who concluded: "The service rent, so collected from the tenant, though gauged by reference to actual or estimated expenditure, becomes in the hands of the lessors their absolute property to deal with as they please".

The effect of the 1954 Act was to limit the grounds on which the landlord of business premises might recover possession at the end of a contractual tenancy and to give the business tenant a right to secure a new lease or claim compensation for the loss of his security of tenure. The relevant provisions were: sections 32, covering the property to be demised; section 33 which dealt with the length of the tenancy; section 34 which prescribed the rent, and section 35 which governed the terms of the new lease.

His Lordship deduced from those sections (1) that Parliament did not intend in relation to business property to protect the tenant from the operation of market forces in the determination of rent.

(2) It was the court and not the market forces which, with one vital qualification, had an almost complete discretion as to the other terms of the tenancy.

(3) In deciding the terms of the new tenancy, as to which the court's discretion was otherwise not expressly fettered, the court must start by having regard to the terms of the current tenancy, which ex hypothesi must either have been originally agreed between the parties or themselves the result of a previous determination by the court in earlier proceedings for renewal.

His Lordship believed that under section 35 the court must begin by considering the terms of the current tenancy, and that the change proposed must be fair and reasonable, taking into account, among other things, the comparatively weak negotiating position of the sitting tenant requiring renewal, particularly in conditions of scarcity, and the general purpose of the Act which was to protect the business interests of the tenant so far as they were affected by the approaching termination of the current lease, in particular as regarded his security of tenure. There must be a good reason based in the absence of agreement on essential fairness for the court to impose a new term not in the current lease by either party on the other against his will.

His Lordship having analysed the tests applied by the judge, and the Court of Appeal in dissenting from them, gave his own reasons for agreeing with the Court of Appeal. It was obvious that in the case of an office block in multiple occupation by different tenants, the actual management of the exterior parts, common parts, lifts, boilers, and ancillary services would ordinarily rest in the hands of the landlords who would covenant to provide them.

Some of those items were readily calculable or could be made the subject of insurance. Some might fluctuate enormously, and the extent of fluctuation would only be ascertainable at the end of the lease

Obviously it was to the landlord's advantage to transfer the financial risk of fluctuation to the tenant and, if the tenant agreed (and the evidence was that many did) there was no reason why he should not do so.

But the crucial question was, if the current lease did not so provide and the tenant did not agree, by what possible reasoning should the court impose the burden on the tenant against his will as a condition of his receiving a new tenancy?

If the inference from the authorities was that the language of section 35 required that the party (whether landlord or tenant) requiring a change must justify as reasonable a departure from the current lease, a mere agreement about figures did not shift the burden in any way. The appeal should be dismissed.

Lord Wilberforce concurred in the result and Lord Keith, Lord Scarman and Lord Brandon agreed.

Solicitors: Nabarro, Nathanson & Co; Ince & Co.

In *Attorney General v Lundin* (*The Times* February 20) leading counsel for the Attorney General was Mr Desmond Fennell, QC.

No gains tax relief on movable plant

Williams v Evans (Inspector of Taxes)

Before Mr Justice Nourse

[Judgment delivered February 17]

Capital gains accruing on sales of business assets consisting of movable machinery were not eligible for "roll-over relief" under section 33(1) of the Finance Act 1965 (now section 115 of the Capital Gains Tax Act 1979) because section 33(6), properly construed, restricted the relief to machinery that was fixed.

Mr Justice Nourse so held in the Chancery Division, in dismissing appeals by Mr Eifion Williams and the other partners in the firm of T. Glyn Williams & Co from decisions of the General Commissioners for Ardudwy, Gwynedd, upholding assessments to the tax made on them for 1976-77 in respect of capital gains totalling £27,839.

Mr Williams and his partners traded as plant hirers and contractors. During 1976-77 they sold a number of earth-moving machines at prices that exceeded the original purchase prices and reinvested the proceeds in two new earth-moving machines for use in their business. Both the old and the new were movable and not fixed machines.

Section 33(1) of the Finance Act 1965 provided relief from the tax where gains were realized on sales of specified classes of business assets and the proceeds were applied in acquiring other business assets in the same specified class.

Section 33(6) of that Act (now section 118 of the Capital Gains Tax Act 1979) specified assets under Class I, head B, as "Fixed plant or machinery which does not form part of a building or of a permanent or semi-permanent structure in the nature of a building".

Mr David Parry for Mr Williams and his partners; Mr Robert Carnwath for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE NOURSE said that the question was whether roll-over relief was available in respect of capital gains from the sale of movable machinery or only in respect of the sale of fixed machinery. That turned on whether the word "fixed" in head B of Class I qualified plant alone or machinery as well as plant.

Mr Williams's argument that it qualified only plant was made primarily on semantic grounds. The word "or", it was said, was disjunctive; conversely "and" was a conjunctive word. Thus if Parliament had intended to draw a provision where the adjective was to cover both nouns, it would either have used the conjunctive "and" or alternatively would have repeated the adjective "fixed" before the word "machinery".

On a broader base it was argued that the object of roll-over relief was to avail those running businesses to retain the proceeds of business assets in the business so as to be able to buy further assets without having to bear the tax. Thus it would be strange, it was said, to limit the relief in the way for which the Crown contended by distinguishing movable from fixed machinery.

In spite of that persuasive argument, Mr Williams's case was unacceptable. It was likely that in 1965 Parliament did not think that inflation would be such that used machines could be sold at prices in excess of the original purchase prices.

But construing the words that Parliament had used in their context and according to legal principles, it was clear that Class I, head B, was intended to apply only to fixed plant or to fixed machinery and not to movable machinery. The Crown's claim succeeded and the appeal was dismissed with costs.

Solicitors: Hatchett Jones & Kidgell; Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

Petitioner's penalty

In re Signland Ltd

Before Mr Justice Slade

[Judgment delivered February 15]

A petitioner to wind up a company who did not follow the relevant winding-up rules was ordered to pay the company's and an opposing creditor's costs in the Chancery Division.

Mr Grant Crawford for the petitioner; Mr John Brisby for the company; Mr J. E. Rayner James for the Inland Revenue; Mr Robin Hollington for the opposing creditor.

MR JUSTICE SLADE said that a petition to wind up the company was presented by Billing and Sons Ltd on January 5, 1982. The Companies Winding-Up Rules 1949 (SI No 330), as amended, provided by rule 28 that every petition should be advertised not less than seven clear days after it had been served on the company and not less than seven clear days before the day fixed for the hearing.

The object of that provision was (1) to give the company an opportunity to discharge the debt, if it was undisputed, before advertisement took place, with all its potentially damaging consequences, and (2) to enable the company, if it wished to dispute the debt, to apply to the court to restrain advertisement.

In the present case the petitioner not only failed to allow seven clear days after service of the petition before advertisement took place, but advertisement took place two days before the petition was served. While his Lordship was content to accept the assurance that that breach had not been deliberate, it had been flagrant and serious and of the type which the court must take steps to discourage.

The Companies (Winding-Up) (Amendment) No 2 Rules, 1981 (SI 1309) expressly empowered the court to remove a petition from the file.

Ordinarily his Lordship would have struck out the petition, but Mr Rayner-James, for the Inland Revenue had indicated that the Revenue wished to be substituted, and accordingly his Lordship would give leave for that to be done. His Lordship ordered costs in favour of the company and the opposing creditor to be paid by the petitioner.

Solicitors: Letcher & Son, Verwood; Harveys, Lewisham; Solicitor to the Inland Revenue; Amhurst, Brown, Martin & Nicholson.

Cabinet considers prolonging the closed shop

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Workers caught in a closed shop they dislike face a delay of up to two and a half years before they can get rid of compulsory trade union membership. It became clear yesterday that the Government may not act in its present term of office and wait until mid-1984 before forcing employers and unions to hold ballots testing support for the closed shop.

This is the timetable for introducing obligatory votes on union membership agreements envisaged by Mr Norman Tebbit, the Secretary of State for Employment.

Some senior Cabinet members, however, are uneasy about the long delay and could compel Mr Tebbit to allow the voice of the shop floor to be heard much sooner.

Speaking in London at a conference on the Employment Bill, organized by the Industrial Society, Mr Tebbit said: "I have not decided yet how soon after the royal assent the first ballot will be held. It is possible that we may go for a two rather than a one-year period." Royal assent to the Bill, which is going through Parliament, is not expected before July.

He told managers, trade unionists and employers attending the conference: "I shall of course give full weight to your views on this before coming to a decision."

Mr Tebbit, who was criticized for legislating against existing arrangements in industry, said: "We cannot be diverted from the principle that employees should have the opportunity to decide from time to time whether they wish a closed shop to continue. This is a case where the interests of individual employees must be balanced against the interest of unions and employers.

"I am not underestimating the difficulties there will be in some firms in holding the balance. I do not doubt that in some cases employers and unions will decide not to hold ballots at all."

But no employer or union would be able to escape the financial consequences of trying to enforce an unapproved closed shop. "In time, I hope this will persuade the more reluctant that a five-year balloting requirement is not particularly onerous."

Mr Tebbit has bowed to criticism of his original proposals by extending the maximum permissible interval between ballots from three to five years, and his latest apparent concession to management "realists" is likely to cause concern among hardline Conservative backbenchers.

Today the TUC General Council will approve a wide range of measures designed to make the forthcoming Act unworkable. They include a boycott of all ballots on the closed shops.

Co-op bans fox hunting within its domain

By Hugh Clayton

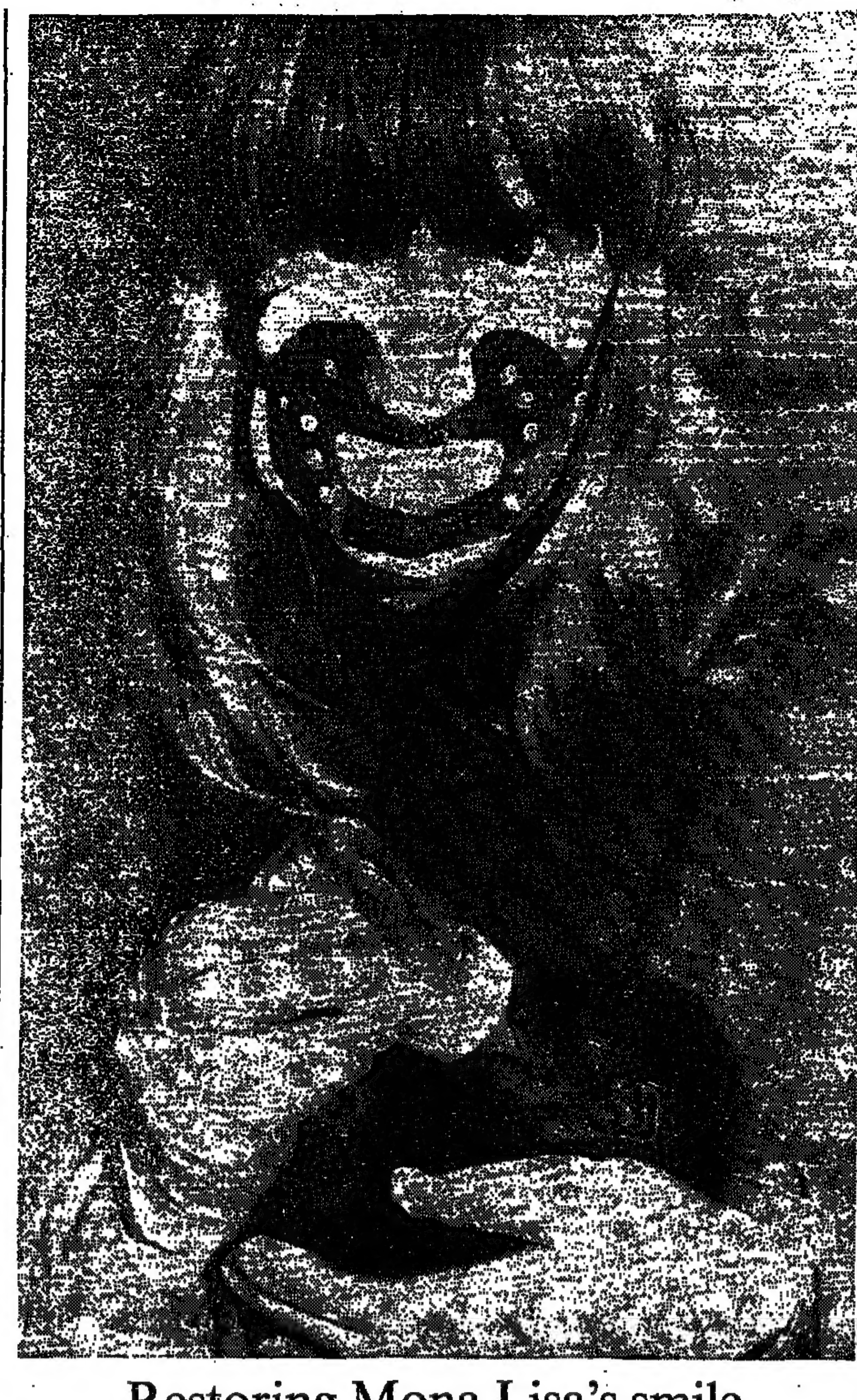
The Co-opertaive movement is to ban hunting on its farmland from June. The Co-op, with about 38,000 acres, is the largest single owner of farmland in the private sector and its action will threaten more than a tenth of the 200 packs of hounds kept in Britain.

The decision is an important symbolic victory in the long and usually fruitless campaign by opponents of hunting to persuade local authorities and other large landowners to ban hounds from their property.

The ban brings to a successful conclusion a year of campaigning inside the Co-op by the League Against Cruel Sports, which financed a group called Co-operators Against Blood Sports. It called on members of Co-operative retail societies to urge their leaders to ban hunts.

Mr Richard Course, executive director of the league, said: "This is absolutely splendid. For a long time we made representations to the Co-op, which quite frankly got us nowhere." The league has bought a total of 2,000 acres of land in the west of England, on which it imposes hunting bans.

The Masters of Foxhounds Association called the ban "one more step towards damaging the fabric of country life." It said that the Co-op was taking arbitrary action against farmers, who included its suppliers and who were often keen hunt supporters.



Restoring Mona Lisa's smile

Mona Lisa, a rare baby gibbon found dying in a passanger's holdall, was being nursed back to health at Heathrow yesterday by a team of girls at the airport quarantine centre

Mona Lisa (above), about six weeks old and worth up to £7,000, as a black Siamang gibbon. She was in the bag of a Dutch male passenger as he passed through Heathrow from Thailand bound for Spain. She was declared to Customs. The 10-inch high baby, weighing 350 grammes, is one of an endangered species.

Mr Ken King, the quarantine station manager, said he was appalled by the way the gibbon had been treated and that action under the Endangered Species Act and the Welfare of Animals Regulations would probably be taken against the owner, who has since flown to Malaga. Mr King said: "The Gibbon was far too young to have been taken from its mother. They should not be separated for two years."

When Mona Lisa is fit to travel, in one or two day's time, she will be transferred to Twycross Zoo,

Frank Johnson in the Commons

Giving Mr Skinner private hell

A Conservative backbencher yesterday accused Mr Dennis Skinner's election agent of having bought his own council house.

We were all stunned. It was an imputation of blasphemy second only to a suggestion that Mr Skinner himself could be capable of making so base a purchase. But it was awful enough. For here was an accusation that Mr Skinner (Bolsover, Lab), spiritual leader of Britain's millions of extreme, fundamentalist proletarians, was harbouring close to his person, indeed in his very entourage, someone who had availed himself of Conservative wider home ownership legislation.

The wretch who made the charge was Mr John Heddle (Lichfield and Tamworth, C). He did so in the guise of a question to the Prime Minister. A terrible scene ensued. For Mr Skinner was present, seated in the place below the gangway from which he has conducted his years of struggle against all bourgeois forms of government.

Mr Heddle made his accusation against someone whom "the hon Member for Bolsover employs as a political agent".

The Tory benches broke into cheers at this amazing news. Mr Skinner suddenly sat upright, chin held high—the whole effect being one of affronted dignity probably not seen in public life since the death of Queen Victoria. He rose. Alas, Mr Michael Foot rose at the same time. The Speaker called Mr Foot. Mr Skinner remained standing. He remonstrated with the Chair, though in the noise it was impossible to hear his words.

The Speaker told him that the Question Time had only just begun, the implication being that once Mr Foot had spoken Mr Skinner would shortly have an opportunity to defend himself against a charge which, if left unanswered, would destroy the faith of Mr Skinner's humble followers throughout the length and breadth of Bolsover and even further.

But Mr Skinner could not possibly wait that long. Eventually, his words reached us. It was as if he was appealing to us in the gallery to send reassurance as soon as impossible to the demoralized masses.

"I 'aven't *got* an agent", he shouted.

He resumed his seat. Mr Foot began to put some rather tedious questions about the budget. Mr Skinner shouted to him across the gangway to refte the awful charge. "I am sure my hon friend can look after himself", Mr Foot inadequately commented.

Eventually, from the Chair, came the cry of: "Mr Dennis Skinner". Mr Skinner rose once more. Drawing on all his authority, he ruled: "Is the Prime Minister aware that I haven't got an agent, and that the person referred to is no longer on the executive of the Bolsover constituency Labour Party".

From Mr Skinner's words —and like all great systics he tends to speak in parables — it was clear that there *had* been someone who had made an evil purchase, someone (darkly described as "the person referred to") with a recusant desire for, say, his own chiming door bell or privately-owned plastic garden gnome. But he was "*no longer on the executive*". What a wealth of damnation was contained in those simple words.

Mention of which brings one to Mr Frank Haynes (Ashfield, Lab) who, on a point of order, later reminded the Speaker that the Chair had last week rebuked him for using the term "What the hell!"

In that case, asked Mr Haynes, why had not the Speaker rebuked a Tory who had said that Western European countries involved in the Siberien gas pipeline had "sold their souls to the devil?" The Speaker simply repeated that references to trips to hell were not approved of by him—or presumably by Him.

Mention of hell led naturally to the committee stage of the Canada Bill. Dante, author of the standard guide book to hell, missed a trick by not including in one of the innermost circles those whose punishment was to listen for all eternity to Mr Enoch Powell explaining during the committee stage why the Canada Bill was a paradoxical absurdity.

Mr Powell and the all-party opponents of the Bill have mounted a fillibuster. Their aim is to speak for the rest of eternity. There will therefore be a more detailed account in this column later in eternity.

Jobless total down by 25,000

Continued from page 1

per cent, or nearly one in four) is the worst hit region in the United Kingdom, followed by Wales and the North of England. Best off is London, where unemployment is only 8.5 per cent.

Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment, said that he was encouraged by the slowdown in the rate of increase in unemployment. But other reaction was almost uniformly hostile to the Government, with the TUC-Labour liaison committee saying that the Government should change course or resign, and the CBI's Director General Sir Terence Beckett, calling for a cut in the National Insurance surcharge.

The figures suggest that there will be no big increase in the overall total of unemployed between now and Easter, when the next generation of school leavers comes on to the market.

Government policies have been heavily focused in recent months on finding ways of keeping school leavers out of the dole queues by a combination of job subsidies, special training places and further education.

But a problem which is beginning to become more important is that of the long-term unemployed. There are now more than 900,000 people who have been out of work for more than a year, and internal Manpower Services Commission forecasts suggest the total will top a million by July.

The figures for the long term unemployed and the total jobless understate the true scale of the problem. Special measures keep the total down by between 325,000 and 350,000, and many other workers do not register because they have given up hope.

☐ Church leaders yesterday joined forces in a campaign calling for positive action against unemployment in Britain.

"Unemployment has become a growing evil of frightening proportions", the Rev Paul Brett, a member of the Church Action with the Unemployed campaign committee, said. The campaign calls for church people to sponsor training and work experience schemes and to help create new jobs.

☐ About 10 "Right to Work" demonstrators invaded Mr Tebbit's Whitehall office to protest about unemployment yesterday.

The police were called, and the demonstrators peacefully removed. Mr Tebbit was at the House of Commons.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

The Queen attends premiere of "Absence of Malice", in aid of the Italian Hospital, Odeon, Leicester Square, 8.

The Duchess of Kent, Chancellor of Leeds University, visits "The University and Industry" exhibition, Clothworkers' Hall, Mincing Lane, London, 6.

Talks, lectures

Health risks and the environment, by Prof J. T. Davies, Large Lecture Theatre, Poynting Building, Birmingham University, 11.

The Gulbenkian Museum of Oriental Art, by John Ruffle, Whitworth Art Gallery, University of Manchester, Whitworth Park, Manchester, 12.15.

Music

Recital by Joy Baker (mezzo soprano) and Katherine Rolleston (piano), Bourne Hall, Ewell, 1.10.

Concert, Northern Sinfonia of England, with Natalia Gutman (cello), City Hall, Newcastle, 7.45.

Concert, Orchestra da Camera, Civic Hall, Bedworth, 7.30.

Exhibitions in progress

Poussin: Sacraments and Bacchanals—paintings and drawings on sacred and profane themes, National Gallery of Scotland, The Mound, Edinburgh; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5; (until March 21).

From Manet to Toulouse-Lautrec: French lithographs, 1860-1900, Art Gallery & Museum, Kelvingrove, Glasgow; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5; (until April 12).

A choice of Design—fabrics from Warner and Sons, Brighton Museum, Royal Pavilion, Brighton; Tues to Sat 10 to 5.45, Sun 2 to 5, closed Mon (until March 21).

Royal wedding dress and presents, Palace of Holyroodhouse, Edinburgh; Mon to Sat 9.30 to 4.30, Sun 2 to 6; (ends Feb 28).

Last chance to see

Work by Vladimir Mayakovsky, Fruit Market Gallery, 29 Market Street, Edinburgh; Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30 (ends today).

The Times Crossword Puzzle No. 15,764

ACROSS

1 It travels by air — or rail (9).
6 This flower shed (5).
9 Huge numbers surround a night-flier (7).
10 Long-suffering theatre-goer, perhaps (7).
11 Magnificent song — or the reverse (5).
12 Bloomer of one who preferred his own view (9).
13 Wonders if the distances include reversing car (8).
15 Something on coat or jumper (4).
19 Impossible without energy? (2,2).
20 Necessarily put down by the police (8).
23 Not only a marine vessel (9).
24 Bore was a candidate? (5).
26 Corrects the name of a gas (7).
27 Red Indian dog swallows wildcat (7).
28 10 may be out of these varieties (5).
29 Sir Roger's home, periodically (9).

DOWN

1 One interested in shooting stars? (9).
2 Adds spirit to my game (5).
3 Old monument for poor Mr Cole above the church (8).
4 Pale with study of Maugham's work (8).
5 Send out drunken toper about ten (6).
6 Marshal also breaks bread, as he put it (6).
7 Official rate change more certain to follow (9).
8 Europeans served at court, we hear? (5).
14 Soldier about to take part in watch (9).
16 Welsh hero makes grand advance to debtor (9).
17 Sensational development connected with cephalopod (8).
18 Branch not on fire (8).
21 Cross the mountains thus to avoid the town (6).
22 Fellow upset good man — breaks commandment (6).
23 The ruling type of novelist (5).
25 Musicians to form a crew? (5).

Solution of Puzzle No. 15,763

Auctions today

Bonhams, Montpelier Street: Furs, 11. Christie's, King Street: Jewels, 11; Continental silver and objects of virtu, 11; printed books, the property of The 10th Duke of Devonshire's Charitable Trust, 11. Christie's, South Kensington: Carpets and objects of art and sculpture, 10.30; modern British and Continental pictures, watercolours, drawings and sculpture, 10.30; furniture, 1; English and Continental pictures, 2. Phillips, Blenheim Street: Chinese and Japanese ceramics and works of art, 11; automobilia, 12. Sotheby's, Bond Street: 19th century Continental paintings, 11; wine, 10.30. Sotheby's, Belgravia: Decorative art, 11.

Viewing

Bonhams, Montpelier Street: English and Continental paintings, 9 to 3; English and Continental furniture, 9 to 3; English and Continental ceramics and works of art, 9 to 5; jewels and objects of virtu, 9 to 4. Christie's, King Street: English furniture; Old Master pictures, both 9.15 to 4.30. Phillips, Blenheim Street: Automobilia, 9 to 11; musical instruments; books, atlases, maps; silver and plate, all 9 to 4.30. Sotheby's, Bond Street: Continental pottery, pictures—fast sale, both 9.30 to 4.30.

Sporting fixtures

Racing: Meetings at Ascot, 1.30; Folkestone, 1.30 and Catterick Bridge, 1.15.

Badminton: England v Japan v Sweden, Huddersfield Sports Centre, 1 and 6.30.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Travel Concessions (London) Bill, second reading.

Lords (2.30): Debates on rural housing, problems of the Scottish Highlands, and on A320 Airbus.

Today's anniversaries

Winslow Homer, American painter, was born in Boston, 1836, and George Moore at Moore Hall, County Mayo, Ireland, 1852. Deaths: Henry Cavendish, physicist and chemist, London, 1810; Robert Fulton, American engineer, New York, 1815.

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The Times list of best-selling books

Hardback

Title	Author	Publisher	Price
The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail	Michael Baigent, Richard Leigh and Henry Lincoln	Cape	£8.95
French Leave 1982/3	Richard Binns	Chiltern House	£3.95
The Flight of the Condor	Michael Andrews	Collins	£12.95
The White Hotel	D. M. Thomas	Gollancz	£6.95
Invitation To A Royal Wedding	Kathryn Spink	Colour Library International	£7.95
Hugh Johnson's Pocket Wine Book		Mitchell Beazley	£3.95
Midnight's Children	Salman Rushdie	Cape	£7.50
Masquerade	Kit Williams	Cape	£4.50
Whitaker's Almanack 1982		Whitaker	£9.00
The Last Waltz in Vienna	George Clare	Macmillan	£8.95

The Times list is based on trade sales through Hammick's to 400 bookshops and verified retail sales through eight Hammick's bookshops and 20 others.

Latest pamphlets

Family Holiday Guide. This is the thirtieth year of publication of this useful guide to holiday accommodation, specially suited for parents, babies and children, in both hotels and self-catering. There is also valuable guidance on beaches and other facilities. The publisher, Jonathan Lewis, and his inspectors have surveyed more than 1,000 toilet facilities. They concluded that sparkling toilets are a low priority for many concerns. On the positive side, though, more hotel rooms are being offered with private bathrooms, more caravans with mains drainage and fewer flats with shared facilities.

Lewis Publications Ltd, 31 Castle Street, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, 95p.

B and B in Wales. Budget holidays at 800 establishments—hotels, inns, guest houses and farmhouses—offering overnight accommodation for under £8 a night are listed in this guide. Seaside, countryside, market towns and cities are included, and there is information on holiday planning, access, advice on eating out and a calendar of events.

Wales Tourist Board, Dept ED, PO Box 1, Cardiff. 50p.

Plymouth. The Real Maritime Centre. Plymouth will be high on the visiting list in this year of Maritime England and all the information a visitor could possibly require is contained in this attractive guide to the maritime and other attractions of the city.

Plymouth Marketing Bureau Ltd, Royal Building, St Andrews Cross, Plymouth, Devon. 35p.

The Pound

	Bank buys	Bank sells
Australia $	1.78	1.70
Austria Sch	32.00	30.00
Belgium Fr	87.00	83.00
Canada $	2.31	2.22
Denmark Kr	15.05	14.30
Finland Mkk	8.67	8.22
France Fr	11.50	10.90
Germany DM	4.52	4.27
Greece Dr	118.00	111.00
Hongkong $	11.25	10.65
Ireland Pt	1.27	1.22
Italy Lir	2410.00	2310.00
Japan Yn	456.00	430.00
Netherlands Gld	4.96	4.70
Norway Kr	11.41	10.81
Portugal Esc	131.50	124.50
South Africa Rd	2.08	1.93
Spain Pta	191.00	182.00
Sweden Kr	11.01	10.43
Switzerland Fr	3.61	3.39
USA $	1.89	1.82
Yugoslavia Dnr	99.00	93.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied yesterday by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

London: The *FT* Index closed down 9.2 at 539.0.

The papers

It is no coincidence that the primary school nearly wrecked by pupils is in Toxteth, says the Daily Mirror: "Take the children of the unemployed living in bad housing and put them in inadequate schools and you get trouble. . . . Money saved in education cuts is really an investment in violence", it says.

Commenting on the crisis at The Times, Le Monde says Mr Murdoch is applying "salami tactics", separating the various unions and taking a slice off each category of employees.

The Wall Street Journal yesterday said the United States Government does not appear to be serious about Polish sanctions: "The Reagan Administration cannot afford an image of talking loudly and carrying a small stick", it warns.

Roads

London and South-east: Rectory Road, Farnborough, Surrey, closed between Highgate Lane and Coleford Bridge Road, diversions. M4: Westbound lane closures from 9.30 am until 4 pm between junctions 8/9 and 10 between Slough and Langley. M23: Southbound lane closures S of Crawley, 9 am to 4 pm daily. A205: Roadworks on South Circular road at Thurlow Park Road near Tulse Hill station.

Midlands: M5: Lane closures between Worcester and Strensham (junctions 7 and 8). A5: Single lane traffic and temporary signals N of Nuneaton. A38: Lane closures from Tyburn into NE suburbs of Birmingham.

North: A64: Roadworks at Bramham crossroads (A1), W Yorkshire. A6120: One lane each way on Leeds outer ring road near Weetwood Lane. M18/M180: One lane each way in Humberside.

Wales and West: M4: Lane closures at Newport, junctions 24 to 25. A40: Roadworks at Whitemill, Dyfed; A338: Roadworks on Bournemouth by-pass near railway station.

Scotland: A89: Bank Street, Coatbridge, Lanarkshire, closed eastbound between South Circular Road and Dundyvan Road. A92: Stop/go boards, NE of Ellon, Aberdeenshire. A70: Width reductions between Newmills and Currie in Lothian.

Information supplied by the AA.

Air

British Airways expect to operate about 85 per cent of their European and domestic flights from Heathrow today; shuttle and long haul flights are unaffected.

Weather

A trough of low pressure will move into N and W Britain during the day.

6 am to midnight

London, SE, E England, E Anglia, E Midlands: Fog patches clearing slowly, hazy sunshine, becoming cloudier later, wind SW, light; max temp 5C (41F), but 1C (34F) in foggier areas.

Central S, NW, Central N, NE England, W Midlands: Sunny periods, some fog patches, becoming cloudy later, perhaps some rain; wind SW, light, becoming moderate, frost at first; max temp 7C (45F).

Channel Islands: Bright at first, becoming cloudy later, perhaps some rain; wind SW, light or moderate; max temp 8C (46F).

SW England, Wales: Bright at first, some fog patches inland, becoming cloudy, some rain later; wind S, fresh; max temp 8C (46F).

Lake District, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen: Bright at first, becoming cloudy, some rain; wind SW, moderate, becoming strong; max temp 6C (43F).

Isle of Man, SW, NE, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, Argyll, Orkney, Shetland, N Ireland: Cloudy, outbreaks of rain, becoming brighter, showery later; wind SW, strong, perhaps gale; max temp 8C (46F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Friday: Unsettled, temperatures near or rather above normal.

SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea, Straits of Dover: Wind SW moderate; sea slight to moderate. English Channel (E): Wind SW, moderate, becoming fresh; sea moderate. St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind S, fresh or strong; sea moderate or rough.

Sun rises: 6.57 am. Sun sets: 5.31 pm.
Moon rises: 7.38 am. Moon sets: 6.13 pm.
First quarter: March 2.

Lighting up time

London 6.01 pm to 6.25 am
Bristol 6.11 pm to 6.35 am
Edinburgh 6.06 pm to 6.45 am
Manchester 6.06 pm to 6.37 am
Penzance 6.25 pm to 6.45 am

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; fg, fog; f, fair; s, sun.

		C	F			C	F
Belfast	fg	0	32	Guernsey	s	4	39
Birmingham	c	1	34	Inverness	c	7	45
Blackpool	c	3	37	Jersey	s	6	43
Bristol	c	1	34	London	s	4	39
Cardiff	s	3	37	Manchester	fg	0	32
Edinburgh	c	7	45	Newcastle	c	7	45
Glasgow	f	7	45	Ronaldsway	c	7	45

Highest and lowest

Highest day max: Aberdeen airport 10C (50F); lowest day max: Brize Norton, Lyneham 1C (34F); highest rainfall: Lerwick 0.1in; highest sunshine: Bognor Regis 8.5hr.

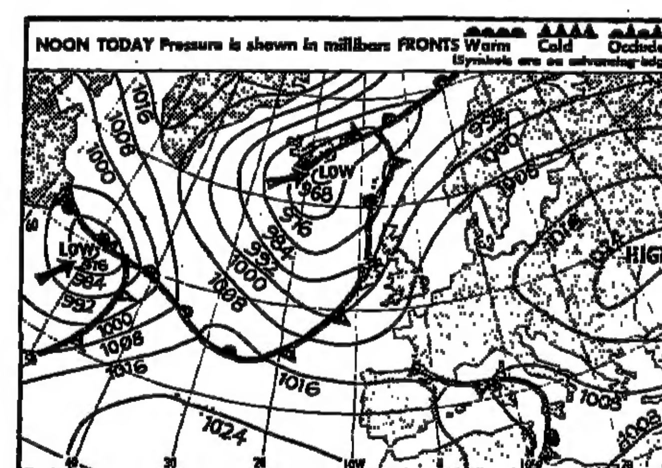
London

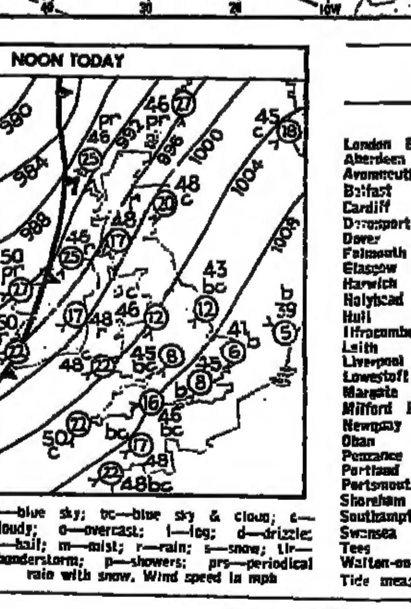
Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 7C (45F); min 6 pm to 6 am, -1C (30F). Humidity: 6 pm, 71 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, nil. Sun: 24hr to 6 pm, 6.0hr. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm, 1,015.0 millibars, steady. 1,000 millibars=29.53in.

Satellite predictions

Figures give time of visibility, where rising, maximum elevation, and direction of setting. Asterisk denotes entering or leaving eclipse.

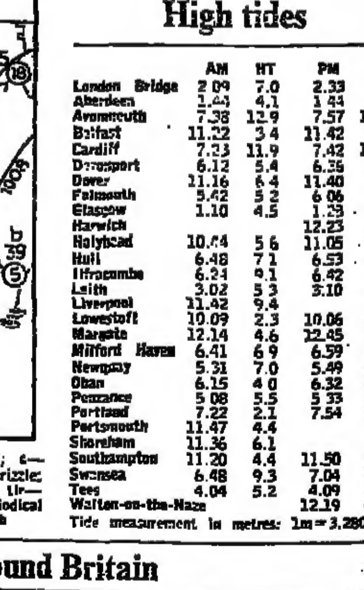
MANCHESTER: Cosmos 1220: 19.36-19.42; NW; 75SSE; SE*. Cosmos 1266: (Feb 25) 5.11-5.12; N*; 15N; NNE. Cosmos 880R: 19.10-19.13; NNW; 20NNE; NNE*. Cosmos 1306: (Feb 25) 5.18-5.20; NNW*; 15N; NNE. Cosmos 1337: 19.30-19.36; WNW; 20W; SW. Bhaskar 2: 18.31-18.35; S; 20SSE; ESE* and 20.9-20.10; WSW; 25SW; SW*. Seasat: 18.54-19.1; NNE; 25NW; WNW. Salyut 6: (Feb 25) 5.13-5.15; SSE*; 55SSE; ESE.





b—blue sky; bc—blue sky & cloud; c—cloudy; o—overcast; f—fog; d—drizzle; h—hail; m—mist; r—rain; s—snow; th—thunderstorm; p—showers; pr—periodical rain with snow. Wind speed in mph

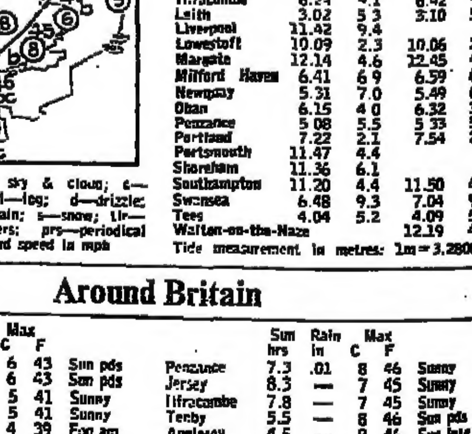
High tides



	AM	HT	PM	HT
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Tide measurement in metres: 1m=3.2808ft.

Around Britain



	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F	
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Abroad

MIDDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; fg, fog; r, rain; s, sun; sn, snow.

		C	F
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]